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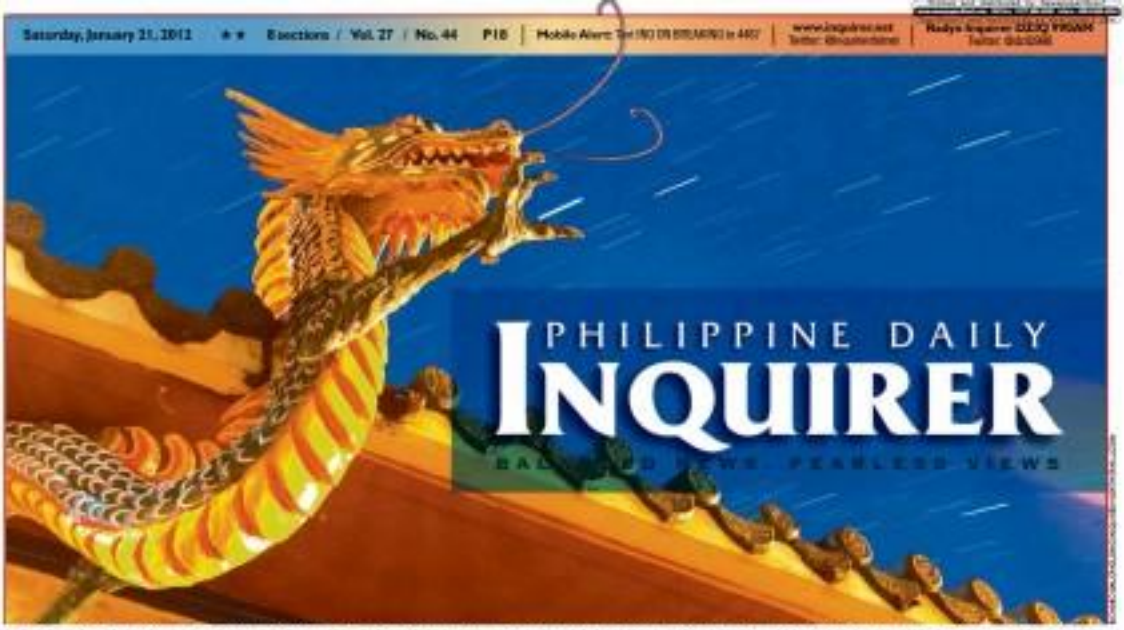


**ENTER THE DRAGON** The dragon statues on the roof of Baguio City's historic Bell Church have gained significance with the celebration of the Chinese New Year on Monday, ushering in the year of the water dragon. The local community joins the celebrations to remember and honor the legacy of Chinese immigrants who introduced the planting of leafy vegetables making Benguet the primary supplier of Manila's salad vegetables.

# 'Defense delaying trial'

## Mayweather confirms fight with Pacman

LOS ANGELES—Floyd Mayweather Jr. has spoken to Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao by telephone to discuss a possible megafight next May, adviseers to each fighter confirmed to several media outlets on Thursday.

Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe confirmed the call to ESPN while Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum did the same to Boxingscene.com and Pacquiao himself talked with ABS-CBN in the Philippines about the short conversation.

The Philippine report quoted Pacquiao as saying there would be no problem if Mayweather would agree to a 50-50 split of income from what is expected to be the richest fight in boxing history—as much as $100 million—if it ever comes off.

Unbeaten US star Mayweather and Pacquiao, regarded as the world's top pound-for-pound fighters, nearly made a deal for a fight once before but the American's insistence on unique antidoping blood tests helped kill the talks.

MAYWEATHER, A6

**DREAM FIGHT** The much-awaited battle featuring the world's best pound-for-pound boxing champions Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. appears to be a certainty this year. The fight could take place sometime in May and would likely generate one of the biggest purses and television audiences in boxing history. AFP

## Prosecutors' attempt to present evidence blocked at every step

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and TJ Burgonio

SEN. PANFILO Lacson is unhappy with the numerous objections lodged by the defense at Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial and considers these a deterrent to swift justice.

He said he would officially manifest to his fellow senator-judges his observation that the proceedings were being "consistently bogged down by so many objections on the floor that accomplish nothing except a delay to the trial."

Lacson said that after seeing the defense block the prosecution's attempt to present evidence every step of the way, the proceedings so far had made him "understand why it is impossible for justice to be rendered swiftly and fairly."

He said his experience as a law enforcement official had made him familiar with court processes, especially criminal litigation.

"A poor litigant will quit after exhausting whatever little savings he has when confronted in court by so many legal technicalities that delay his quest for

DEFENSE, A4

**Enrile stands out; 7 sides can claim early victories** / A2

## DepEd sees noisier, rowdier Grade 1 classes

By Terra Quimpando

COMING SOON in public schools: Noisier, rowdier and talkative Grade 1 pupils.

Incoming first-graders in June are expected to speak up more in class as the Department of Education (DepEd) switches to the mother tongue as medium of instruction in the early grades.

This means that first-graders in Manila and nearby provinces will

DEPED, A4

24-YEAR-OLD CASE

## ₱50-B suit vs Marcoses, Vers junked

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SANDIGANBAYAN threw out yesterday the government's ₱50 billion ill-gotten wealth suit against the Marcos and Ver families, Marcos trade minister Roberto Ongpin, and the partic-

ipants in the so-called Binondo Central Bank, saying state lawyers failed to establish that the respondents had conspired to steal and appropriate government resources for themselves.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Samuel Martires, the antigraft court's Special 2nd Division dismissed the 24-year-old suit against the group of defendants that included the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his trusted right-hand man, Gen. Fabian Ver, Doña Ver, Imelda

₱50-B SUIT, A4

## Corona on 'ill-gotten wealth': I'm not stupid

By Jerome Aning and Gil C. Cabacungan

EVEN if it were true that he had amassed ill-gotten gains, he would not be so stupid as to put these in the names of members of his family, Chief Justice Renato Corona said yesterday.

"In the eyes of the people, if I got all my assets through illegal means, will I be careless/stupid enough to put [these] in my name, [or those of] my wife [and] my children...?" Corona

CORONA, A4

## Gov't gets $1.1-B share from Malampaya project

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday received $1.1 billion (more than ₱45 billion) as its share in royalties for 2011 from the Malampaya gas project.

President Aquino accepted the mock check for exactly $1,134,669,137, from Shell Phil. country manager Edgar Chua in a ceremonial turnover at Malacañang yesterday.

"The project is a joint venture so that government has a share and it is given every year. The $1.1 billion is the total for 2011," Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said.

GOV'T, A4

## OPM to stop 'Mamma Mia!' if million-peso fee not paid

By Pachalo Concepcion

THE ORGANISASYON ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) is considering filing an injunction or temporary restraining order against the local promoter of the international touring production of the long-running West End and Broadway musical, "Mamma Mia!," set to open Jan. 24 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Elmar Beltran Ingles, OPM executive director, told the Inquirer yesterday that the local promoter Concerna Inc. had not paid the equity clearance, a requirement for all foreign

OPM, A6

**BUSINESS**
**'Anti-outsourcing** noise in US, election politics' / B1

**NEWS**
**P-Noy** on Gatdula: The trust is no longer there / A2

**LIFESTYLE**
**The man** who perfected the art of party / C2

**NEWS**
**Palace** corrects P-Noy's height: He's 5'10", not 5'6" / A4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: The Luzon center of low-pressure area will continue to affect most parts of Luzon and Visayas. Expect cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms. Metro Manila will be cloudy with scattered rains and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered light rain while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms.

| | | | |
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| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Kalayaan | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Masbate | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cuyo | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cebu, Bohol | Partly Cloudy |
| Virac | Partly Cloudy | Dumaguete | Partly Cloudy |
| Iloilo | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

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# P-Noy: NBI chief lost my trust

By Norman Bordadora and Jeanne Aning

PRESIDENT Aquino said outgoing National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Chief Magtanggol Gatdula had committed insubordination when he failed to turn over to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) a Japanese woman who was allegedly an undocumented alien.

"She's a foreigner. If the matter is that it's illegal entry then the proper venue is the Bureau of Immigration," he stressed.

Mr. Aquino said there were orders for Gatdula to transfer Sonya Ohara to the custody of the BI but failed to do so.

"That in me is insubordination. Now, at the end of the day, the head of the principal agencies will be a person who has our trust and confidence," President Aquino told reporters. "The trust is no longer there," he added.

Told of an alleged lack of due process, succeeded in the former NBI director, President Aquino said a preliminary investigation had allegedly been completed on the case.

"Preliminary investigation has already been completed. The point here is, based on the investigation conducted, there were several revelations that Gatdula was informed either by the media or the Secretary of Justice herself and others of the question of Ohara being detained at the NBI," President Aquino said.

### Placing Yakuza

Ohara, 32, fled to the Philippines in 2005 to escape the Yakuza, whom referred to as a Japanese criminal syndicate, who had killed her father and was out to get her, too.

She had been living with the Marcos family in Dasmarinas when he was allegedly kidnapped by NBI agents and detained at the NBI.

Gatdula was among several NBI officials whom a DOJ fact-finding panel recommended for criminal and administrative charges for the kidnap-for-ransom of Ohara.

Malacañang had sought the help of the media which exposed the kidnapping.

President Aquino had ordered Gatdula sacked for his alleged participation in the kidnapping of Ohara last October.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday said Malacañang had already served a notice of termination on Gatdula.

"This is to inform you that your appointment as Director of NBI is hereby terminated effective this date," read the notice signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. which was distributed to the media by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

In a press conference, De Lima cited despite's loss of trust and confidence in Gatdula as the reason behind the latter's termination.

### Nonsense

She explained that as a non-career executive service officer, Gatdula served at the pleasure of the President.

Gatdula was among several NBI officials whom a DOJ fact-finding panel recommended for criminal and administrative charges for the kidnap-for-ransom of Ohara.

## 'Pork' is new minority leader's top priority

By Gil Cabuenagan

THE INCOMING minority leader of the House of Representatives yesterday said his top priority was to ensure that all minority congressmen would get their P70 million annual priority development assistance fund (PDAF) or pork barrel.

In an interview, Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said that he would ask President Aquino to make good his promise to give all House members, whether friend or foe, their share of the pork barrel in order to ease their constituents of extra funds from the government.

Suarez was a leading member of the ruling party in the Arroyo administration which had been notorious for using the pork barrel as a carrot to curry loyalty from its allies and stick to punish its foes.

Last year, all but five of the 285 members in the House received their pork barrel in full. Those who did not were Bienvenido "Benny" Abante (Committee Sec. Juan Miguel "Sillery" Arroyo (Ang Galing Pinoy), Ignacio Arroyo (Bagong Henerasyon), Augusto Syjuco (Iloilo), and Wilfrido Mayuga (Zamboanga).

Magsaysay claimed that she was forced to cut the budget of her scholarship and medical programs because these were dependent on the pork barrel.

Suarez said that the minority would take a more aggressive stance in its role as a watchdog in the House. "We have special things planned. Watch out," said Suarez.

Suarez is expected to formally takeover as minority leader on Tuesday after Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman announced his resignation from the party following what he described as an unjust publication by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

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## P-Noy vetoes fixed term for AFP chiefs

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino said yesterday he has vetoed the bill proposing a fixed three-year term for Armed Forces chief of staff, saying it violates the Constitution.

"I actually sent a message to both chambers that I vetoed the same," President Aquino told reporters when asked about the fate of the bill.

"There's a provision of the constitution that says lines on enforcement cannot extend service or something to that effect," he added.

He said there was a provision in the bill that said the retirement of the chief of staff would be deferred if he or she reaches the retirement age but has yet to serve the full three-year term.

The Chief Executive said the provision in the bill approved by Congress violates Article 16 Section five of the constitution.

The section provides that "laws on retirement of military officers shall not allow extension of their service" except during times of war or national emergencies declared by Congress.

Congress ratified the bill providing a three-year fixed term for chiefs of staff in October 2011.

It was seen as the solution for the quick coming and going of chiefs of staff, many of whom are appointed so they can retire only less than three years to go before they reach the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Some chiefs of staff even held the position for only a matter of months.

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# Height story miffs P-Noy: I'm not 5'6" and I'm not into 5-6

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday made one thing very clear...he is taller than 5 feet 6 inches (1.68 meters).

"Wanyaoh: na along pinipersonal nito (This is getting too personal)," a smiling but apparently not amused President said at a news briefing in Malacañang.

"Hindi ako 5'6' at hindi rin ako nanunungkulan ng 5-6. Para lilinawig-kitaen yan (I'm not 5'6' and I'm also not into 5-6. I want to make that very clear)," Mr. Aquino said. His mention of "5-6" appeared to be in reference to the notorious system of lending money at a high 20-percent interest.

Mr. Aquino's remarks were apparently triggered by an Inquirer cartoon story the other day about him meeting at the Palace with Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. The story said that Thaksin, now a his sister Rose Mr. Aquino and gave the President's height as 5 feet 6, compared to Yingluck's 5 feet 7.

The Inquirer based Mr. Aquino's height on what appeared in his curriculum vitae as published on the website of Congress when he was still a member of the House of Representatives. The website put his height down as 5 feet 6 inches. He was then 39 years old. He is now 51.

The President's deputy spokesperson, Undersecretary Abigail Valte, said he is actually 5 feet 10 inches (1.78 meters) tall.

$1-BILLION CHECK President Aquino receives a symbolic check with a face value of P1 J (P1,000 J) P to the share of the national government for 2011 from the Malampaya gas project during the handover ceremony in Malacañang on Friday. With the President are, from left, Shell Phil. assistant manager Sabina Santos, Shell Phil. managing director Sebastian Quinonez, Shell Phil. country manager Edgar Chua, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and PNOC Chair and CEO Cornelisus Lopez. (PNA photo)

# Gov't gets $1.1-B share from Malampaya

From page B1

Almendras hoped the project would bring in the same huge revenues in future years, provided the price and quantity of gas produced would be stabilized.

"Hopefully, the supply will continue, and if the price stays as it is that should be the quantity that we should be getting," Almendras said.

## Expected to shrink

However, he expects the government's share in shrink once the project embarks on an increased production of Phases 2 and 3 of the project, "as there we can get more gas and prolong the supply of gas because we need as much gas as we can."

Almendras said the $1.1 billion would go directly to the National Treasury that is being managed by the Department of Finance.

According to Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, the Malampaya Fund has a specific purpose in law which is to fund energy development, or for other purposes approved by the President.

## P888 as of Sept. '11

Abad yesterday said the Malampaya Fund stood at P88 billion as of September 2011. With the addition of the $1.1 billion, or about P48.1 billion, the fund would increase to P137.3 billion, he said.

According to the records of the Department of Budget and Management as of May 2011, P708.91 billion in royalties have been received from the Malampaya project since 2002.

As of May 2011, P36.457 billion has been disbursed. P1.99 billion to the provincial government of Palawan and P32.32 billion to national government agencies. Agencies include DepEd, P2.87 billion was released in 2011.

## Total royalties

Data from the Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the project, showed that the total royalties due to Energy as of P228.49 billion from the Malampaya project since the complex began producing natural gas commercially in 2000.

The amount represents the royalties earned over to the government as of November 2011, data from the DOE showed.

Under the service contract agreement, 70 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of natural gas goes to the contractor to recover the investment costs. The remaining 30 percent is to be shared by the government and the consortium on a 60-40 basis, respectively.

## Status of fund

"We really have to be prudent whenever charging against the Malampaya Fund because of its importance to our fiscal health," Abad said in a statement issued in May 2011 on the status of the fund.

He said the money from the fund was being used "reasonably and rationally" under the Aquino administration.

"So far under the Aquino administration, we have charged 60.87 billion from the fund for necessary energy-related expenditures," he said.

These expenditures as of May 2011 included $1 billion for the requirements of the National Power Corp.-Small Power Utilities Group, to avert a power shortage in off-grid areas; P450 million for the Swiss-aid Panay program, to direct subsidies to jeepney and tricycle drivers affected by the increase in oil price hikes; and P423 million for the purchase of a Hamilton-class marine vessel from the United States to strengthen the security perimeter of the Malampaya Natural Gas Project.

## First gas undertaking

The Malampaya gas field project itself Palawan is the first undertaking of its kind in the country to draw natural gas from beneath Philippine waters. The gas processed from the project feeds three natural gas-fired power stations with a total generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts to provide 40 to 45 percent of Luzon's power generation requirements.

Malampaya is a joint undertaking of the government and a private consortium. It is operated by Shell Phil. Exploration on behalf of joint venture partners Chevron Malampaya and the PNOC Exploration Corp. Shell owns a 45-percent stake of the energy project for Malampaya. Chevron Malampaya owns the other 45 percent while PNOC Exploration Corp. holds the remaining 10 percent.

Also present at yesterday's ceremonies were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, PNOC Chair and CEO Cornelisus Lopez, Shell Phil. managing director Sebastian Quinonez Jr. and Shell Phil. assistant manager Sabina Santos.

# DepEd sees noisier...

From page A1

for taught in Tagalog, Ilonggo, Ilocano, Bicolano, Hiligaynon, Cebuano and those in parts of Leyte and Samar in Waray.

Thus, a "dog" for a Tagalog student will always be "aso," it will be "apan" for a Bicolano first-grader, and "iro" for a Cebuanoan pupil.

"The students will be very participative, the class will be very interactive...it will be a very noisy classroom," said Rose Villarosa, a DepEd official at the start of the campaign. She said they are preparing materials in different Philippine languages.

"They can't wait to go to school and you'll really see that students really don't have inhibitions anymore. They are no longer afraid to speak up...you told them to, they'll sing, their observations from earlier lessons, where mother tongue instruction was practiced.

## Effective technique

The bell rang for the mother tongue is a key part of the national implementation of the K-12 (Kinder-garten to 12 years) program, which aims to develop highly qualified Filipino high school graduates by encouraging a learner-centered curriculum and giving them more time to learn through an additional two years.

Studies have shown that teaching with the use of the mother tongue is an effective technique in developing language and critical thinking skills among early learners.

It is known to help children "understand" new concepts and also reduce the incidence of early dropouts.

Under the Department program, the mother tongue is envisioned to serve as a foundation in multilingual education, where learners would use their home language from Grades 1 to 3, then graduate to learning Filipino and then English.

## Pilot testing

Officials say the program is aimed at strengthening—not diminishing—the students' grasp of Filipino and English.

Villarosa said mother tongue-based instruction was pilot-tested in 932 schools in the current school year using 11 major Philippine languages and dialects.

Lingua franca or first language program was launched by the DepEd before but none more successful.

"Before this program, a child's mother tongue had been the cause of slippers that he should take off once he enters the classroom. Take off your flip-flops because here, you will learn in English," said Soledad Pado, a reading and early learning expert from the University of the Philippines (UP).

"Remember those schools that had volunteers to speak only in English? That's a [Western] language-approved technique. Because when you say 'English only,' the classroom gets quiet," she said.

## Local flavor

The DepEd is currently developing more learning materials initially for the first grade as it gears up for the nationwide rollout of a new curriculum for school years 2012-2013.

Almost 20 teachers and staffers from Tacloban and Ormoc were trained on the learning materials—lesson plans, flash cards and reading materials, among others—for last week's first month of the UP College of Education.

Until yesterday, the team zeroed on learning materials in Waray and its language. Hiligaynon, Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Ilocano, Maranao and Pampanganese.

Pado said Villarosa, both of the team of the effort, said local flavor is infused in the learning materials to help children better relate to what they are learning. For instance, local anecdotes are used for stories while traditional garments in the respective localities are used in illustrations.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday - January 21, 2012
**2nd Week in Ordinary Time**
1st Reading: 1 S 1:1-8; Ps 116: 1&2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 2:13-17

It was then that Samuel said, to the Lord, as he stood after delivering the Israelites. He was already two days in Jabbaj where, on the third day, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dust on his head. He went to David and fell to the ground in homage. David asked him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." David then said, "Tell me what happened." And the man told him, "The soldiers fled from the battle but many of them fell and died. Saul and his son Jonathan – they were dead."

At this, David and all behind him clothes and tore them and this went on the same. And they mourned, weeping and fasting until evening, for the death of Saul and his son Jonathan, for all the people of Judah and for the nation of Israel.

"Your glory, O Israel, is slain upon your mountains!
How the mighty ones have fallen!
Tell not it in Gath,
Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.
Mountains of Gilboa, weep: even dew
Or rain be upon you, nor fields that bring forth offerings!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
The shield of Saul, anointed no more with oil.
From the blood of the slain,
From the fat of the mighty ones,
The bow of Jonathan turned not back,
And the sword of Saul returned not empty.
Saul and Jonathan, beloved and cherished,
Neither in life nor in death were they parted;
Swifter than eagles they were,
Stronger than lions.
Women of Israel, weep over Saul
Who clothed you in precious scarlet,
Who bestowed ornaments of gold upon your raiment.
How the valiant have fallen
In the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain on your mountains.
I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan,
Most dear have you been to me;
Your love for me was wonderful,
Less than the love of women.
How the valiant have fallen,
The weapons of war have perished!"

Gospel: Mark 2:23-28

Jesus and his disciples went home. The crowd began to gather again, and they couldn't even have a meal. Hearing of this, his hometown folk set out to take charge of him. "He is out of his mind," they said.

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# Mayweather confirms fight with Pacman

From page B1

This time, Mayweather has a May 5 date booked at a Las Vegas arena while Pacquiao's promoter wrote a late May date to assemble a huge audience. The arena seats 16,800 and can be added to boost profits by as much as $10 million.

Floyd wants to fight Manny Pacquiao on May 5 and he wants as far as to reach out to Manny Pacquiao personally," Hearbo said.

## 'Step Up, Punk'

Hearbo told ESPN that Mayweather called from Las Vegas to the Philippines after earlier this month calling out recently-new Pacquiao on Twitter, making insults, "Step Up, Punk," to the world welterweight champion.

"I can't say what exactly was said but I know," Hearbo told ESPN. "Floyd has shown many times a willingness to get this fight done and this is really exactly what he wants to do and what he wants to give to the fight fans."

Mayweather has spoken with Pacquiao advisor Michael Koncz several times in recent weeks, according to all reports.

## Outdoor arena

Pacquiao, 34-3 with two draws and 32 knockouts, has won his past 15 fights over a span of nearly seven years while Mayweather, 42-0 with 26 knockouts, must score a 90-day jail sentence starting June 1 after a domestic violence conviction.

Arum said that the latest of what Pacquiao would next fight would be resolved this coming week.

Arum, who is chair of Top Rank promotions, presented four other possible foes for Pacquiao as next opponents, including Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto, Americans Lamont Peterson and Tim Bradley and Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez.

Arum earlier said a fight with Mayweather at the end of May or even early June would give the Filipino champion time to heal from a 20-stitch cut he suffered in his fight with Marquez last November.

That would also give time for a 45,000-seat outdoor arena to be built—much like the capacity of the MGM Grand Garden Arena, where Pacquiao has fought before—which Cotto's side would score 17,000 people.

With reports from AFP, ESPN, ESM, Today

BioVitale
Holistic Tonikee
Revolutionary herbal remedy against cancer
Do you feel that certain procedures, many are suffering from different types of degenerative diseases, the kind of diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, colitis, asthma, cancer and so many more. With their sicknesses, these patients would be bed bound for hours or maybe days. Their sickness, their medical expenses, use of daily medications as well as, the use of too much chemical drugs in the body, the reason why natural medicine is gaining wide popularity.
One of the pioneers in this country is the Bioenergen Holistic Center established 13 years ago, with the aim of promoting health as a preventive approach using natural ways as much as possible. One tried and observing therapy as well as introduction alternative health gadgets as natural food supplements which could be of the right to your health. Among the popularly used of the name is the Kuest Ionic Foot Spa, which is using today for cancer patients, arthritis, rheumatism and circulatory ailments, allergies, diabetic and kidney complications. There is also the Natural Endocrine Check-up which within 3 to 10 minutes is immediately identifies which organs of the body produces the signs and symptoms the patient experiences, principle is based from Chinese Medicine.
Bioenergen Holistic Center offers and the reason why Dr. Cyrano Victoria has been established and starting Jan 21 Saturday a new branch will be opened in Cabanatuan City. The other branches are in Lipa City (+63 (0) 2 8924), San Fernando Pampanga (+63 (45) 455-4940), Alabang (+63 (02) 8) and Naga branch in Cebu (+63 (032) 254-2 The address in Cabanatuan City: Dr. Victoria Clinic, Maharlika Highway, Dicarma, Sanlibi, near Provincial Hospital. Today Jan 21 - Saturday, Dr. Sonny Victoria will give a free lecture at 9 a.m. in Cabanatuan City to be followed by clinic. While on Jan 28 Monday a building FREE lecture will be held at Bonifacio Cultural Branch, Bonifacio, Cabanatuan City. Dr. Victoria is one of the pioneers in the practice of natural medicine in the country. he can be treated and seen regularly or walk-in at Tita Tyl, Cabana, Cabanatuan, Cabanatuan, Cabanatuan

# Army division denies hiding Palparan

CITY of San Fernando—The army's 7th Infantry Division on Friday denied evading retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who has choked seven since Dec. 20 on charges of kidnapping and torture of the Philippines, wadness in Bulacan in 2006.

"The Unified forces] is a professional organization composed of disciplined and law-abiding soldiers," the 7th ID said in a statement. "It is not the policy of the AFP to coddle and provide safe harbor to any person wanted by law."

Maj. Enrico Gil Brito, the unit's public information officer, said the statement was in reply to allegations published recently by the media.

Until his retirement on Sept. 13, 2006, Palparan commanded the unit, which operates in Central Luzon, the region north of Metro Manila.

Palparan should [illegible] himself in and answer all allegations leveled against him," the 7th ID urged in its statement.

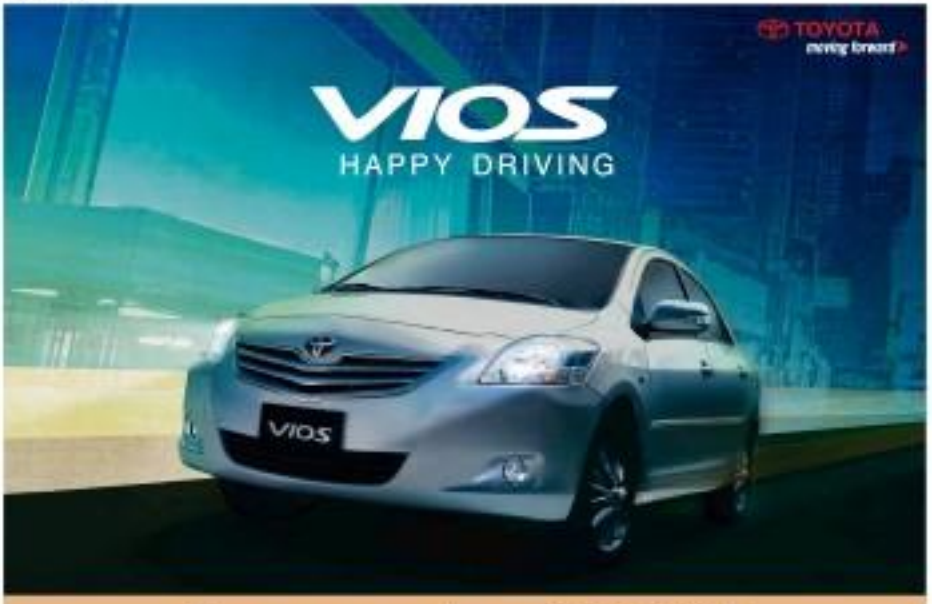
"It would be better for him to face the case and take the opportunity of proving that he is not guilty and clear his is innocent," it said.

Soldiers have been instructed to "inform proper authorities if they still spot retired Palparan in their duty assignments," according to the statement.

But the army has identified its surveillance efforts, this time in Aurora, because of reports that Palparan had been sighted there this time.

On Dec. 19, investigators presented at the Olongapo Metropolitan International Airport stopped Palparan from boarding a plane bound for Singapore.

Judge Teodoro Gerardez of the Olongapo regional trial court issued on Dec. 20, 2011, the arrest warrant on Palparan and three soldiers still in active duty who were implicated in the abduction of Sherylen Cadapan and Karen Empeño. Sumedco Ovejia, with a report from Armand Galang, Inquirer Central Luzon

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*P-Noy: Prosecution will do better*

# Enrile stands out; 2 sides can claim early victories

## 2 lawyers ask SC to stop impeachment trial (again)

By Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

A THIRD urgent motion has been filed in the Supreme Court for the issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

In a motion filed yesterday, lawyers Homobono Adaza and Ilan Pagsa yesterday said the high court should intervene because some senator-judges were displaying "unseemly and partial behavior" and acting like "hired prosecutors."

They said Senators Franklin Drilon, Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Pangilinan, Edgardo Angara, Aquilino Pimentel III, Gregory Ejercito, Panfilo Lacson and Teresa Escudero were "outrightly convicting" the impeachment trial which could not be achieved by the House prosecutors could be obtained."

Adaza and Pagsa said there were compelling reasons for their pleading. "The Senate assuming jurisdiction over an impeachment case is not a matter of power and its continuance is proved with the trial have led to serious constitutional questions of the separation of the Legislature, considering [the] directions of the fundamental legal document, which should never be allowed to profit even," they said.

They said these "directions" included the Senate's decision to proceed with the trial despite the lack of verification of the articles of impeachment, the senators' acquiescence that the high tribunal would not review the acts of the impeachment court, and the senators' "disregard" of the provisions of the rules of court during the trial.

### Why is defense participating?

Pagsa and Adaza's latest pleading is related to the one they filed on Jan. 3, which asked the high court to stop the impeachment trial on the grounds of alleged defects in the articles of impeachment adopted by the House of Representatives.

The original case was among the five similar cases consolidated on Tuesday by the high court, which gave the respondents—the Senate and the Office of the Ombudsman—10 days to answer.

In an interview with reporters, Adaza and Pagsa assured the Senate of "wanting public faith" for continuing to hold a "quasi-tumultic" impeachment trial.

"The people should not be misled. Only the Supreme Court can resolve this issue," Pagsa said.

Pagsa assailed Corona's defense team for continuing to take part in the trial.

"We say because they're not questioning [the basis of the impeachment]. Why are they participating in this activity? It's not the Senate that has the final word on this. It's the Constitution, which only the Supreme Court can interpret," Pagsa said.

He added: "How I understand why poor litigants seek justice outside the courtroom, either by [taking] the law in their own hands or by the street against a rich and powerful respondent, as seen in the [Dura People's Army's] kangaroo court.

"I intend to manifest next week before my co-panel this observation, with the sole purpose of expediting the trial while preserving due process. There must be a balance between the two concerns, and we must find that balance."

### Repeated blocking

On Thursday, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas, the lead defense lawyer, repeatedly blocked Custio Rep. Elpidio Barzaga's attempt to present evidence to prove that Corona had failed to properly report the properties in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), in a separate charge of graft and illegal wealth against the Chief Justice under Article 2.

On Wednesday, Corona et al. lawyer Jose Roy III objected to Barzaga's presentation of a March 2002 SALN for the period 2001-2011 had Sen. Franklin Drilon not altered an admission from her that she had actually filed a SALN for the period.

On Tuesday, the second day of the trial, Barzaga was forced to move for an adjournment after Cuevas questioned the authenticity of "computer-generated" documents that the prosecution had presented to support that Corona owned several properties that he did not declare in his SALNs.

### 'Premature judgment'

On the phrase with the Inquirers, Sen. Gregorio Honasan issued the reminder that members of the impeachment court were not barred from questioning witnesses after their testimony.

Honasan, who also served as a senator-judge during the 2001 impeachment trial of then Pres. and the deeds of sale covering the properties in Tigaig, Marikina and Quezon City; the property titles not declared in the SALNs, the source of some of the other properties had been grossly undervalued in the declarations, and whether Corona has the legitimate capacity to purchase the properties.

The impeachment court agreed Corona, his wife and minor children from being made a public spectacle by allies of President Aquino with its rejection of the prosecution's motion to summon the family to the witness stand.

Had the motion been granted, the prosecution could have grilled Corona himself and his family on the purchase of expensive properties in the environs of the rich in Metro Manila.

But the impeachment court also allowed the issuance of subpoenas on the transactions of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) of Corona covering the period from 1992 to 2011 and on deeds of sale of 45 properties purportedly belonging to him and his family.

### Undervalued assets

At the close of the trial on Thursday, the prosecution showed evidence to the senator-judges that Corona had undervalued his wealth in declared assets.

Based on the SALNs submitted in the Senate on Wednesday, the prosecution pointed out that Corona's net worth was only P16 million in 2002, but jumped to P22 million in 2004, the year he was appointed Chief Justice by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sudden jump in Corona's net worth proved that he had misused ill-gotten wealth, the prosecution claimed.

The declared assets are a property in La Vista, Quezon City (P3 million but bought for P16 million); a penthouse unit at The Bellagio in Taguig City (P6.6 million but acquired for P13.5 million); a unit in the Solaz, also in Taguig (P3.3 million but bought for P5 million); the Burgundy condo unit in Quezon City (P921,000 but acquired at P5.5 million); and a unit at The Columns in Makati City (P1.2 million but purchased for P3.5 million).

### Satisfaction

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, the lead prosecutor, was satisfied with the way things turned out in the first week of the trial.

"All, get the 2001-2010 SALN for Drilon from Court clerk of court. We presumed the 1992-2002 SALNs and the current properties of Chief Justice Corona and family. We were able to accomplish in the first week the things we had to do—get the clear chain of custody needed by the defense," Tupas said in a phone interview.

The defense, on the other hand, established that the Chief Justice had been filing his SALNs.

It said this would take the charge in Article 2 of the impeachment complaint alleging that Corona violated the Constitution and betrayed public trust "when he failed to disclose to the public" his SALNs.

In a news briefing, Corona's lawyers claimed that the prosecution of evidence and witnesses did not punch holes in his defense because Article 2 did not allege his accumulation of ill-gotten wealth but only the supposed misdisclosure of his SALNs.

Head defense lawyer Serafin Cuevas claimed that the disclosure of Corona's SALNs was enough proof that the Chief Justice had been regularly filing the documents.

### Too early to tell

"We are looking forward to the succeeding weeks as we continue to tell the story of how the Chief Justice betrayed public trust and as we present many damaging pieces of evidence," Tupas said.

Enriquez said he expected a faster trial in the coming week.

"It could be faster, but I guess we need to allow the parties and counsel to maximize a bit to the presentation of their cases. I don't see next week without the usual hiccups as one that just week," he said.

Asked by Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara, a prosecution spokesperson, refused to gauge the performance of the defense and prosecution at this point.

"It's too early to tell as this stage, but so far there has been fair progress in presenting our case against the G.J. (Chief Justice). The gains have been impressive to date. All of these witnesses are supportive our claim that the G.J has betrayed public trust by failing to disclose his SALNs and by amassing ill-gotten wealth," he said.

Angara said he expected the impeachment trial by the prosecution of more deeds of sale covering the rest of the 45 properties next week.

From page A1

# Defense delaying trial, says Lacson

HOUNDED: Student activists demonstrate in front of Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is confined. They also carry placards denouncing Chief Justice Renato Corona who is to the center of an impeachment trial. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

justice," Lacson said yesterday in a text message.

He added: "Now I understand why poor litigants seek justice outside the courtroom, either by [taking] the law in their own hands or by the street against a rich and powerful respondent, as seen in the [Dura People's Army's] kangaroo court.

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### 'Premature judgment'

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Honasan, who also served as a senator-judge during the 2001 impeachment trial of then Pres. Joseph Estrada from late 2000 to early 2001, pointed out that he could even pose questions to Corona if he wanted to.

Honasan said Corona made "a premature judgment" when he accused Drilon of "substituting" for those prosecutors. Drilon had questioned Walai after private prosecutor Wilfredo Stanton failed to convince the clerk of court to surrender Corona's SALNs.

"Let's not forget, we senator-judges, if they have clarificatory questions, can intervene. They can ask actually anything from anybody—prosecutors, the defense panel, and the witnesses," he said. "Nobody can stop us from doing that."

Honasan opposed the belief that Cuevas and other defense lawyers might have been emboldened to air their sentiment because the impeachment court did not discipline the House prosecutors for the "unseemly" and "partial" behavior in favor of Corona's supposedly sworn enemy.

"This is the consequence of our failure to moderate our words, actions and public pronouncements," he said.

Honasan recalled that after the senator-judges voted down over the prosecution's protracted presentation of information on the 300-square-meter penthouse unit supposedly owned by Corona in Taguig City, "no one was elated the outcome [decision] called us to task."

"Shortly after that, Cuevas in-

sinuated that Malacañang is approaching senator-judges to convince them to vote for a conviction ... What is happening is the continuous process of that by publicity," he said.

Honasan called on everyone concerned to "allow the process to finish."

"Let it unfold. Give it that benefit of the doubt. The trial is a work in progress," he said.

Lacson, for his part, urged "give the prosecutors a break."

"Even a seasoned lawyer like Manny Barzaga can get nervous in front of a judge. What more in front of 23 senator-judges?" he said.

Honasan said sitting as a judge was "a heavy burden" and that the Senate, like the rest of the nation, was "on trial" on whether it could impose justice.

He said the people "wanted the process" but appealed to them to "be patient" and "be cautious and refrain from making conclusions early on.

"If we make premature conclusions, it would be unfair to the senator-judges and to the Filipino people. We can't impose a guilty verdict based on this early stage. Let's not be senior inquirers. This is a serious process," he said.

### Challenge to senators

In another phone interview with Aning, Arroyo said the challenge facing him and his colleagues in the coming weeks of the impeachment trial was to "stay focused."

"The public expects the senators to be like true jurors, and [it] will hold the Senate to that," Arroyo said. "The challenge is not to be impartial and objective."

Arroyo, who was among the prosecutors of then President Estrada on charges of conspiracy, incompetence and insufficiency said the senators were aware that the public was watching "whether the House will be impartial."

Responding to sen. Cuevas' comment that Drilon was "substituting" for the prosecution, Arroyo said: "In the net sum of what the public wants ... absolute neutrality on the part of the Senate? That is not realistic to obtain [in] the real world."

He said it was also burdensome on the media to deliver a fair coverage for the benefit of the public.

"Since the ownership [of Corona's impeachment trial] doesn't appreciate the core of fairness, where the public interest is served, must total, generally the public has no rely on media's report and interpretation. That puts a responsibility on the part of the media to report fairly in the events happening in the trial," he said.

In the succeeding comps he issued this challenge: "The prosecution should prove whether it stated in the articles, and the defense should controvert and disprove the evidence of the prosecution."

### Search for truth

In a statement, the group called Former Senior Government Officials (FSGO) called for sobriety from all sides in the coverage of the trial.

"We should not let the lawyers' argumentation and legal technicalities blind us to the moral essence of why GJ Corona is being impeached," the FSGO said.

It said it agreed with the lead prosecutor, Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., who said: "We are not here to indict the Supreme Court as an institution, or to do battle with the judicial branch of government. We are here to search for the truth so as to restore the strength and independence of the judiciary."

# Church exec urges vigilance vs RH bill

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CHURCH official yesterday reminded the Catholic faithful to be vigilant as lawmakers continued to discuss the controversial reproductive health measure despite the ongoing impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"I appeal to public opinion to keep watch on the interpellation of the RH bill as it might seek like Corona's impeachment complaint, which gained 1.1M signatures within a discussion," said Fr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Episcopal Commission on Family and Life.

Over Church-run Radio Veritas, Castro expressed his concern about the RH bill, which seeks to promote sex education in the Grade 5 and provide contraceptive pills and condoms to Filipino couples, being railroaded if not RH bill advocates do not pay attention.

The priest said that while the Senate was occupied with Corona's impeachment trial, it was still tackling the RH bill in its morning sessions.

Castro also noted that although there has been "no active interpellation" on the measure at the House of Representatives, those against the bill must continue to be watchful.

"We are not sure how the impeachment complaint against Corona got through without discussion... It might also happen to the RH bill as we should really be on our guard," said Castro.

On the other hand, Castro said the resignation of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, the main sponsor of the RH bill, as House majority leader would have no effect on the debates on the measure.

"Whether he is a member of the majority or the minority, he will still push for it," said Castro, adding that the controversial measure might even gain more supporters if he joined the majority.


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# Robredo: Damned if you do, damned if you don't

By Dona Z. Pazolygan

CLAIMING he was in a "damned-if-you-do-damned-if-you-don't" situation, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said he would rather be axed by a supplier over bidding failures than risk losing public charges for approving a "bloated" contract for P742.8 million worth of firefighting equipment.

Representatives of supplier Edcomtel Trading Co. and its Korean partner Co Seung Ap- parently have threatened to sue Robredo and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) acting head Chief Supt. Samuel Perez, for using "flimsy reasons" for declaring a failure of bidding after it had already won the bid in 2010.

"We're facing a legal problem here. The issue and its legal complexities are now out in the open. No matter what action we take, we can be sued," Robredo admitted.

"If we will award the contract to Edcomtel knowing they did not comply with the documentary requirements, Perez and I could be sued just as well. If we deny Edcomtel the contract, they would also sue us," he continued.

### Doing something right

"In this situation, I would rather be sued for what I think is right than be sued for doing something or taking a position which I think is wrong," Robredo explained.

Robredo said he was set to award the contract to Edcomtel last December, but Perez brought to his attention the fact that Edcomtel should have been disqualified.

### Bureaucratic struggles

While bureaucratic and legal struggles continue, firefighters have not been given new protective gear such as breathing equipment, boots, helmets, gloves, coats and trousers, the Commission on Audit recently noted.

Explaining the delays, Robredo claimed a review showed the firm falsified a "Certificate of Non Industry" from the country of origin of its Korean partner and failed to show compelling file to current tax returns for 2009 and 2010 as part of the documentary requirements.

He also said he would have the BFP bids and awards committee investigated for ignoring the advice of its technical working group that Edcomtel failed to comply with some mandatory bidding requirements.

On claims that the BFP acted on the complaints of two losing bidders, Singapore Technologies and PAL Aliatis, outside the bidding process, Robredo defended the acting BFP chief.

He said Perez was authorized to exercise his discretion in any bidding where the contract has not yet been awarded.

Sources said Perez earlier called the attention of the fire protection agency to their failure to purchase much-needed fire-fighting equipment despite the allotment of a budget for it in 2010. Due to delays, their funds were returned back to the national fund.

The failure to buy the equipment was due to sudden revisions in the technical specifications of the items and approval delays that resulted to the lapsing of their budgets allotment, the COA noted.

COA said the BFP needed to step up its game and purchase the equipment because the lives and safety of firefighters were at stake.

ROBREDO: I'd rather be sued for doing right thing.

# PH-China trade at new high despite Spratlys row

By Tina G. Santos

BEIJING: Trade between the Philippines and China in 2011 surpassed the 2007 high of $30 billion despite the two countries' diplomatic spat over conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea.

Citing a report from the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the total trade between the Philippines and China now stands at $32.354 billion, a 11-percent increase from the $27.7 billion figure the year before.

Statistics of the China Customs Administration of Customs showed that bilateral trade has jumped 55 percent since 2009 when total bilateral trade stood at $20.9 billion, the DFA said.

The Philippines logs a trade surplus with China, with its strongest exports in the electronics sector.

In a statement last month, the DFA said the growth signaled "the continuing robustness of bilateral economic relations amid vacillations in the global economy."

Embassy Charge d'Affaires Alex G. Chua said the figures were "an indication of the strength, resilience and potential of the trade and economic ties between the two countries."

"The momentum is positive and encouraging for both sides, especially as both countries aim to meet the $60-billion trade goal by 2016, which was set jointly by President Benigno Aquino III and Chinese President Hu Jintao in September during Mr. Aquino's visit in China," Chua said.

### To lift import tariffs

He said the embassy was confident the current trend could be sustained under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)-China Free Trade (ACFTA) regime, where import tariffs will be lifted.

As party to the ACFTA, the Philippines has further opened maritime for trade in agricultural, minerals, industrial products, and high-quality and design-intensive consumer goods, the DFA said in a statement on Friday.

"Both sides have been exploring further measures to diversify trade relations, to achieve the bilateral trade target of $60 billion by 2016," it added.

Over the past few years, the Asian countries have become among China's top trading partners, with Asian exports to China growing very fast. China is now the Philippines' third biggest trading partner.

# P50-B suit vs Marcoses, Vers, Ongpin junked; case filed 24 yrs ago

From page A1

Marcos, Imee Vic Wyeby Vic Irene Ter Tiaoan and Imda Ve Restitution.

The Sandiganbayan Chinese-Filipino traders who were also charged Tomas Yabu Carmencita Jimmy Ong, Go Pek, Catalino Cua, Rudy Chua, Peter Uy, Benito Tiburcio, Sio Lim, Wilson Chua, Balbino Diego, Arturo Porthrube, Sally Sze and Hu- an Jimmy Uy.

### Underground market

They were accused of unlawfully enriching themselves at the expense of the public by manipulating the trading of dollars from 1984 to 1986 in the so-called Manila Central Bank, a secret underground dollar market created during the severe currency crisis of the 1980s caused by the mismanagement of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. when he was finance minister during the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino's father-in-law.

Aquino accused Marcos of plundering the country of billions, his wife Imelda Marcos, Marcos' Armed Forces Chief Fabian C. Ver, Ver's children Irwin, Wilfredo and Irene Ver, Helena Ver- Tiaoan and Imda Ver-Kwan- zevskies, eight Chinese-Filipino tycoons and Edna Cuenco, a banker who was said to be Fabian Ver's "special friend."

The government alleged that the Marcos couple, Ver, Ongpin and the other defendants organized the BCB "to engage in the buying of millions of US dollars and bringing the same out of the country for deposit in foreign banks, thereby obtaining millions of dollars for themselves."

They allegedly received the money through commissions, acceptance and agents of the BCB's functions, "in exchange for security and protection given to said financiers, their top executives, and cronies and agents."

The BCB was organized in November 1983, when banks and financial institutions had a difficult time obtaining foreign exchange because of the crippling debt crisis that followed the assassination of Aquino in August 1983.

Including on the concocted network of Chinese-Filipino businessmen, the government organized the BCB under Ongpin with a mandate to close the gap between the official gouging rate for the US dollar and the black market rate.

The official gouging rate jumped from P8 in P14 after the Aquino assassination, but the black market rate went as high as P35 as investors panicked and dollar sources dried up.

The BCB, through its network of small money-changers nationwide, reportedly raised about $7 million to $8 million a day.

The BCB was dismantled on Feb. 26, 1986, right after the Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship. At the time, the dollar was raised to as P22, from the P21 as the height of the crisis.

On April 2009, Ongpin asked the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the case, saying the government had failed to prove that he had personally profited from the operation of the BCB or that each had caused grave and irreparable damage to the government.

He also claimed the BCB helped avert an economic disaster by stabilizing the plunging peso.

In December 2009, Ongpin filed a motion asking the Sandiganbayan to finally resolve the forfeiture case against him.

In an interview in December 2011, former President Joseph Estrada urged the Aquino government to make public the records of the defunct National Intelligence and Security Agency, which included, among others, details about the BCB. Reporter Research Source: Inquirer Archives

### WHAT WENT BEFORE

IN JULY 1987, the government brought suit against Roberto V. Ongpin, trade minister in the government of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, accusing him of amassing some P1.65 million illegally through the so-called Manila Central Bank (BCB), a group of major overseas traders that was recently organized in 1985 to provide dollars to importers, traders and large corporations needing to buy raw materials and services from abroad.

State prosecutors also asked the Sandiganbayan to order Ongpin to return the money and pay P50 billion in moral damages and P1 billion in exemplary damages.

Also named defendants were the estate of Marcos, his widow Imelda Marcos, former Armed Forces Chief Fabian C. Ver, Ver's children Irwin, Wilfredo and Irene Ver, Helena Ver-Tiaoan and Imda Ver-Kwanzevskies, eight Chinese-Filipino tycoons and Edna Cuenco, a banker who was said to be Fabian Ver's "special friend."

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In an interview in December 2011, former President Joseph Estrada urged the Aquino government to make public the records of the defunct National Intelligence and Security Agency, which included, among others, details about the BCB. Reporter Research Source: Inquirer Archives

the defendants belonged to or was once part of the vast resource of the government which were conveyed in them as nominees or trustees," the court said.

The court also pointed out that while the defendants owned the Rizondo Central Bank, there was no evidence presented that the Marcoses and the Vers received money from the traders by way of kickbacks or gifts.

Furthermore, the prosecution did not produce evidence to prove that certain properties of the defendants were illegally acquired, the court said.

### Sequestration lifted

The Sandiganbayan also pointed out that the government did not present any testimony or proof of how the public suffered damages from the operations of the Rizondo Central Bank.

Aside from ordering the dismissal of the civil suit, the Sandiganbayan also ordered the lifting of the sequestration order issued on the defendants' properties by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency created in 1986 to recover the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos, his family and associates.

The suit was originally filed in 1987. Government lawyers completed the marking of exhibits in 2003. Ongpin completed his presentation of evidence in June 2007.

"DANCING QUEENS" Five of the "Mamma Mia!" cast members greet the local media on Jan. 19 (from left): Tasha Taylor-Johnson, Kelly Edwards, Sarah Poyzer, Charlotte Wakefield and Rosie Hoark.

# OPM to stop 'Mamma Mia!' if million-peso fee not paid

From page A1

artists pay but using to the Philippines, specifically is bound by a memorandum of agreement between the singers' union and the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

"We've been talking with the promoter since November last year and were willing to give a 10-percent discount because the amount due is P1.8 million which is huge," said Beltran.

The equity clearance fee—P5,000 per performer per show—Beltran said, goes to the OPM fund that pays for medical assistance and other emergency expense of singer members.

But Concerina managing director Imelda Veraz said the BI had issued a special permit for the performers to be treated, while still have a final resolution on the issue, being charged double. Even the original amount of P900,000 because OPM and Concerina in February is a peak season for local shows. He denounced the situation with the BI.

Veraz said the reasons that her office paid the Veraz P567,000 for the special permit.

She did not explain why she paid an amount much lower than the OPM's asking price.

Beltran pointed out that the amount

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| February 4, Saturday | 4:00 - 11:00 AM | Paloma Lol's Run 2 | Quirino Grandstand |
| February 6, Monday | 8:00 AM | Opening Mass | SVP Patio |
| | 2:00 - 6:00 PM | Awarding ceremonies for the Athletes Hall of Fame, Blessed Pedro Calungsod Honor Society, and The Administrative Awards | AdU Theater |
| February 7, Tuesday | 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN | English Language Day / Historical and Impromptu Speaking Contest | AdU Theater |
| | 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN | Vincentian Quiz Bee | ST Chapel |
| | 2:00 - 5:00 PM | 2nd Adamson University Media Awards | AdU Theater |
| | 6:00 PM onwards | 1st Distinguished Adamsonian Alumni Awardee | Manila Hotel |
| February 8, Wednesday | 1:00 - 5:00 PM | Institutional Awards | AdU Theater (Cocktails at ST Quad) |
| February 9, Thursday | 7:00 - 8:00 AM | Paradigms and unveiling of Historical Marker at AdU's Hill (DB) | DB Building, Adamsonia |
| | 8:00 - 11:30 AM | Institutional Parade and Street Dancing Contest | Adamsonia to AdU Campus |
| | 1:00 - 5:00 PM | Symbolic Shovel Fest | Sid Patio |
| February 10, Friday | 1:00 PM | AdU A PBA basketball exhibition game | SV Gym |
| | 5:00 PM | Flight of A Future Premiere | AdU Theater |
| February 11, Saturday | 1:00 PM onwards | 78th Grand Alumni Homecoming | SV Grounds |
| | 2:00 PM | Unveiling of 80th Founding Anniversary Mural | SV Building |
| February 13, Monday | 8:00 AM | Golf Tournament | The Orchard Golf & Country Club Summerlins, Cavite |
| February 18, Monday (tentative) | 8:00 PM | Let's Talk Green | AdU Theater |
| June 28, Wednesday | 3:00 PM | Opening of the Adamson University Museum | SV Building |
| August 16-17, Thursday and Friday | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | 2nd Grand Academic Conference | Century Park Hotel Manila |

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# OPINION

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## 'Minor discrepancies'?

**EDITORIAL**

WHAT IS the significance of a false statement under oath? Is it essentially different from a garden-variety lie, a mental reservation, a fib, an evasion, a little white lie, hyperbole?" US Rep. Henry Hyde asked that question before the US Senate during the impeachment trial of American president Bill Clinton. He was then pleading with the senator-judges to convict Clinton for perjury and obstruction of justice, for having lied about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. We know the rest of the story. The Senate dismissed the raps, in effect recognizing that what Clinton did—the panicked reaction of a man fumbling to hide his mortifyingly embarrassing marital infidelity—did not rise to the level of crimes or misdemeanors, or grave abuse of power. It wasn't betrayal of the public trust, merely that of his wife, Hillary.

The circumstances may be different in the ongoing Corona impeachment case, but Hyde's question bears repeating to this one, after the Chief Justice's assurances of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) were recently finally released to the Senate and the hungry eyes of the public—but only following the performance of a small farce in which clerk of court Enriqueta Esguerra-Vidal expressed fear that she might be sanctioned for violating a court order against the release of the SALNs of members of the Judiciary, and Renato Cotoco Saracdal, like a Mafia don bestowing protection and largesse, then and there assuring the clerk through his spokesman (excuse us, the Supreme Court's— though it's hard to tell) that she was safe from any blowback. Only then was the once-impregnable SALNs of the nation's top judge laid bare for everyone's avid inspection.

Corona, it turns out, might have a good reason for his reluctance to disclose his SALNs. A SALN, a legally mandated public document whose veracity and accuracy are attested to under oath by the submitting public official, can down its owner for perjury at the very least, should the declared facts and figures in it fail to match up with other official records—land titles, tax declarations, etc.—covering the owner's accumulated properties. Moreover, under the law, such discrepancy constitutes prima facie evidence of ill-gotten wealth—a grave charge to lob at any government official. Infinitely more so if he happens to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

On the third day of the impeachment proceedings, the prosecution managed to elicit, however unexpectedly at times, copies of the titles and deeds of sale to some 40 properties in Taguig, Marikina and Quezon cities in the name of Corona, his wife or his children. When snatched up against Corona's newly disclosed SALNs, huge curiosities crop up. For instance, the Chief Justice's total net worth in 2002 was P14.96 million. It went down to P7.359 million in 2004, then steadily climbed back to P14.559 million by 2009. In 2010, however, the year he became Chief Justice, his assets leapt to P22.938 million. It was also in 2010 that he and his wife bought a 1,951.5-square meter condominium unit in the posh Bellagio Residences in Taguig City, along with three parking lots. Total cost of the property: P16.513 million.

The purchase price, however, was confirmed not through any statement by Corona in his 2010 SALN, but by Randy Santiago, the register of deeds of Taguig, who submitted a copy of the deed of absolute sale pertaining to the Coronas' Bellagio unit. In his 2010 SALN, while Corona did list this property, he valued it at only P6.8 million.

A mistake? Ah, but it wasn't the first time. "In 2005," reports the online news site Rappler.com, "the Coronas bought a 113-sq-m condominium unit on the 19th floor of the Strottner Bldg., Taguig City for P9.3 M, according to the deed of sale. In his 2010 SALN, Corona valued this property at P2.4 M." (Take note, too, that in 2005, Corona's SALN put his assets at only P6.356 million).

All in all, while "the condominium units and lot in Makati, Taguig and Quezon City are worth P42.1 M, based on the deeds of absolute sale attached as these properties...Corona put the total value of these properties in his SALN at about P13.1 M only, equivalent to just a third of actual values based on deeds of sale."

"Minor discrepancies" is how Corona's defense team has so far characterized these disturbing inconsistencies. "A genius-variety lie, a 5b?" The SALN is made under oath—and lying on it goes to the very heart of Corona's character. Can the nation afford what looks like deceitful, squalid behavior by its highest magistrate?

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## 'Tug o' war'

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

HOW WILL a tug o' war, between three agencies, over the troubled Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP) turn out? All three seek to probe a leaked World Bank report on pilfering from a $21.9-million loan to the Supreme Court.

Nagged by perception of corruption in courts, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. secured, in October 2003, bank funding for a reform program. The JRSP sought to "speed up case adjudication, de-enhance institutional integrity and (c) strengthen institutional capacity.

On the first whiff of scam, Sen. Franklin Drilon filed Senate Resolution 674. It would authorize the Senate Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures to check if JRSP funds were dissipated for out-of-town trips and to lavish dinners. "Un-bodied irregularity" could tar both the Court and government.

Then, unexpected Representative Teodoro Casiño and Sen's Cotoco-men) who submitted House Resolution 2089. This throws the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability to lead the charge instead.

"That press release (on JRSP) is non-existing, not to be false," crept spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez fumed. Nonetheless, "the Court's Project Management Office is drafting an answer... even after it was already discussed by the World Bank."

Before a "false" report? Or does wish upstage fact?

The bank did not issue a press release. "Given the deliberative nature of information, the audit minutes is usually not disclosed to the public... This is a monitoring and management tool that captures... implementation review findings and recommendations," WB program assistant Ma. Cristina Valentina Erika Lizares Lucas-Esguerra noted.

The fact is MS submitted, on Dec. 28, 2011, that report to the Court. Copies were sent to relevant agencies, including the Department of Finance, National Economic and Development Authority and the House Committee on Budget and Management. The leaked document marked the official copies. Those offices confirmed.

WB seeks a refund of $3.99,988 in "ineligible expenditures," the lawyers reports. Of 70 ineligible transactions, 35 were "attributed to Court Administrator Marquez and his office." JRSP is a "high risk" project, the report found. Its financial management "can no longer be relied upon." Other flaws include: self-serving internal audit, lack of segregation of duties in procurement irregularities. The Commission on Audit skewers key dragging implementation that resulted in penalties.

The bank's ombudsman "notes press irregularities happened in 2010 and 2011," budget secretary Butch Abad pointed out. During this period, the bank observed "escalating use of funds... and procurements that violated the agreement." Corona was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 2010.

Court Administrator Marquez also headed the Bids and Awards Committee which held the JRSP checkbook. "At first contact to one firm, (Marquez) was requestor of services, approver of terms of reference, end user, authorizer of contract signature, recipient of documents." That interlocking of functions resulted in "questionable decisions on how the fund was managed."

The "bulk" has strong history and valued role in journalism. Remember the late Cetac Cabinet of the Manila Chronicle? His column "Inside Malacañang" unveiled the proverbial "leaked" notes. Stunned from the Palace, he even fled his column—"Outside Malacañang."

"What are we in power for?" the late Senate President Jose Avelino told a closed-door meeting of the party in power on Jan. 15, 1949. California senator "Pete" Wilson reasons: "If politics is measured motion to his guess. Despite protests of misgovernance, the Aquino administration's political instinct today remains as attuned to his colleagues, has fallen in some very obvious instances, on deaf ears.

Maybe Singson's prayer and Enrile's opening statement should be repeated at the beginning of every impeachment court session. It may ease, even if only slightly, public cynicism, or at least the impartial observers, will agree that the following has been made clear:

1. The prosecution panel, or rather, those who have so far participated, came without reality doing their homework, or are inexperienced, or—worst scenario—some combination of both. Why can one say that? Just listen to Enrile constantly reminding them to rephrase their questions, or asking them to stop toasting their own witness as a hostile witness, or having to cut short the second days proceedings with the remark "As a matter of fact, the prosecution is...postponement," or words to that effect.

2. At least two senators, at this point, will surely vote for conviction. So much for observing the Bill of Rights, or conducting the trial with impartiality and fairness, etc. The two senators, under the guise of "clarification," or even more emotionally loaded, "the truth," interrogated to ask what the prosecutors failed to ask, in one case not even wanting to see if the prosecution would do so under "redirect" examination, or, where they ask the witness questions after the defense panel's cross-examination.

How should the senator-jurors act? Well, Chief Justice's question was truly in search of clarification—as in asking both sides to submit a memorandum on how to treat the sound impeachment

In Pasay City Judge Emilio Elbinias, on Dec. 7, 1995, jailed five reporters for contempt. They published leaked information about a Cabinet secretary accused of murdering a witness and a judge. Much studied in sequels. The journalists appealed their release which was affirmed on condition they "resisted" their sources to the Court.

Held in the Pasay dungeon were Evening News' Jose Aspiras, Manila Chronicle's Francisco de Leon, Philippines Herald's Blas Librado, Manila Times' Manuel Salak and Philippine News Service's Gregorio Custodio.

The Supreme Court meekly passed a writ of habeas corpus. President Ramos, Magsaysay throwback, signed a shield law.

A decade later, the late Philippine News Service's Romeo Morales and I invoked that legal boulder. The House of Representatives' civil service committee insisted we reveal sources of a report on leaked two questions for 500,000 examinees. We refused.

In 1973, the New York Times and Washington Post published the "Pentagon Papers," a secret analysis of the Vietnam War. When Times "scandalous" matter attended like a Watergate break-in to fewer use medical records of Daniel Ellsberg, a Rand Corporation analyst suspected of being the source.

Fate over 60 tapes on the break in, the US Supreme Court unanimously ordered Richard Nixon to hand over the tapes. Chief Justice Burger's claim of "executive privilege." This ignited the House Judiciary Committee to impeach Nixon for "obstruction of justice." On Aug. 8, Nixon became the first US president to resign.

Internet's new tools opened information...or ignited "mobocracy" or "mouth-speech." Obama was the first to reap. People Power through text messaging in 2001. Howard Rheingold writes in "Smart Mobs—The Next Social Revolution."

As the org o' war over the JRSP story shows, "verifying facts remains the central function of journalism." The task is to be the first to break the news—or be well debriefing. The critical task has become how best at sifting facts from chaff.

*(Email: juan_mercado77@yahoo.com)*

## Do it the right way

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

IT STARTED off so well. Wait, there was Sen. Edgardo Angara's opening prayer, asking for wisdom and enlightenment. What I hoped would be internalized by the senators was the part where Divine intervention was asked to "enlighten our minds so that we may do what is right and just and fair," to "spare us from the insolence and folly that are bred by selfish ambition, false zeal and envy", and to "endow us with sound judgment and discernment...so that we will not judge by external appearances."

Then there was Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's opening statement. Two particular passages: "While it has been said that, by and large, the trial is an impeachment court is guided by its duties, nonetheless, such is neither an excuse nor a license for us to ignore and abandon our solemn and higher obligation and responsibility as a body of jurors to see to it that the Bill of Rights are observed, and due justice is served, and to conduct the trial with impartiality and fairness, to hear the case with a clear and open mind, to weigh carefully in the scale the evidence against the respondent, and to render in fair a just verdict based on no other considerations than our Constitution and laws, the facts presented to us, and our individual sound conviction."

And, "(A)lthough the ostensible respondent in the trial before us is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, we cannot escape the reality that, in charge against the conduct of the trial and its outcome will necessarily have a serious impact on the entire nation... by success or failure... may spell the success or failure of our democratic institutions, the strengthening or weakening of our sense of justice as a people, our stability or disintegration as a nation, and the triumph or demise of the rule of law in our land."

Alas, while God must have been inclined to grant Angara's prayer, I feel that was counted with the true will be gone to humankind, and—no offense meant—may have been wasted with Macaroni pound. As the same time, Enrile's plea ad

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# The annual SWS survey review

## Social Climate

*Mahar Mangahas*

SAYING THAT public opinion is irrelevant to reaching a fair verdict in the current impeachment trial simply means that the Senate should not necessarily conform to the dominant opinion in making its decisions. It does not mean that the Senate should be unaware of the various opinions on the matter, listening to what the people say is basic to democracy.

Last Wednesday, at the Asian Institute of Management, in partnership with the Gilid Ruley Center, I gave a presentation of what the Filipino people had said in the 1991 surveys of 2014. Here is a summary:

1. Whereas the ratings of President Aquino and most officials are not unusually high, the ratings on specific administration performances are unprecedented.

Compared to ratings of the performances of all previous administrations from the time of Cory Aquino, there is record high public satisfaction with (a) promoting the welfare of OFWs, (b) fighting terrorism, (c) helping the poor, (d) fighting crimes, (e) improving the quality of children's education, and (f) deciding quickly on important problems.

Also compared to previous administrations, satisfaction is much improved on (g) reconciliation with Muslim rebels and (h) reconciliation with communist rebels. Satisfaction was formerly always negative, but is now always positive. (i) Ensuring that no family will be hungry. (j) Ensuring that all need-to-have items, and (k) fighting inflation. It has returned to "good" with respect to (l) telling the truth to the people.

At SOH, teacher Ramon Casipit called the unprecedented ratings a fulfillment of the popular hope that Mr. Aquino symbolized in the 2010 election. (To reiterate, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he said, was "the symbol of hopelessness.")

2. Chief Justice Renato Corona's satisfaction ratings are all negative; the Senate now tops the Supreme Court in public esteem. See my "The Senate Beats the Supreme Court." (InterAksyon, 8/28/12)

3. Opinions regarding Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Merceditas Gutierrez, Carlos Garcia and the Hacienda Luisita massacre all show a chance for overcoming all issues against wrong officials. With respect to GMA, see my "Ending on a high note." (Inquirer, 12/31/14) In March 2011, 46% people approved, by a score of 52-31, the Supreme Court's decision to allow the impeachment of Ombudsman Gutierrez. They professed, by a score of 63-15, charging General Garcia with plunder over implementing the plea bargain that the Ombudsman gave to Garcia's boss. In March 2011, 73 percent considered the pace of the Maguindanao massacre case too slow. In December 2011, see satisfaction with resolving the case was -19.

4. Hope for peace with Muslim rebels has brightened. See my "Selling for peace." (Inquirer, 8/28/12)

5. The postponement of the ARMM election was unpopular. In March 2011, prior to the legislation of the postponement, 51 percent were for the status quo, while 16 percent were for postponement. Administration officials were personally lauded on this; BBL did not meet a public report since the finding had already been overtaken by the legislation. As AIM, warrior Fr. Elmer "Jun" Miravalle remarked that the relative lack of public protest signified strong public trust in President Aquino's leadership.

6. The ratings of local officials are generally high. See my "The 2013 survey on local governance." (Inquirer, 10/15/13)

7. Confidence that the government can be run without corruption has grown. The result dense was at 65 percent in July 2013, compared to 54 percent in September 2009.

8. Poverty and hunger have both been for less several years; the surveys provide realistic, updated, poverty thresholds. See my columns "A new hunger picture" (Inquirer, 10/20/11), "Pictures of poverty" (Inquirer, 11/28/11), and "Reject the reduction of the poverty line" (InterAksyon, 12/2/11).

9. Passage of the RH bill and legalization of divorce are both popular, but my "RH and freedom to choose." (Inquirer, 6/13/11) The approaching vote regarding legalization of divorce need to 30-22 in March 2011, from a split 43-44 in May 2005.

10. Public morale is generally good. In P-Noy's time, there is a relatively small gap of quality of life (QOL) pictures from QOL losers (dissolute emptiness of gesture over losers on race, in my country), a very wide spread of QOL optimists over QOL pessimists, a dominance of mostly optimistic over mostly pessimistic (whereas previously it was the reverse). All personal feeling very poised to be Filipino.

Unbooked: public opinion in 2015. For years ago, on Jan. 26, 2010, the 2006-2009 annual Survey Newsletter reported: "The unpleasantness of 2005 stemmed from continuing controversy over the 2004 election. The extent of public indignation in Metro Manila during June-August, gleaned from 1991 landline surveys reacting to the "Hello Garci" tapes, was validated at the national level by the September 2005 national Social Weather Survey finding 79% favoring impeachment, and 68% favoring resignation, of the President."

Despite those very strong survey numbers, we all know that President Aquino did not resign, nor did the House impeach him. Handling public opinion, in that time, could have saved the country as much grief.

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Contact: SWS: mail@sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph. A CD-ROM of all the SWS media releases from 1991 to 2013 is available from Annette Ocena <asocena@sws.org.ph>.

# List before you leap

A GREEN Year-E with my 2012 to-do list looks something like this:

1. Go to Mexico.
2. Get a dog.
3. Get married.

It's so much easier to think of getting hitched as just another item to check off on my to-do's, because actually committing to

Young Blood

*Aimee Montoya*

the point to leave what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the (aimee@manilabug.com) below.—Ed.

my man-boyfriend (I'm looking at you, Ben Barbadillo) and of discussions about divorce in our reasonably family-oriented country can one really overthink the decision to say "I do"? I know this is everyone's of the highest order; I'm convinced that one can't.

Why I'm so opposed almost two years ago in Paris. It was early spring; young Mexicans were still drily parking cars from the branches on the trees lining the Jardin de Luxembourg, and I was lucky to be on a school break while he visited me. On our first day of walking on the city's cobblestone streets, I started sensing he might actually pop the question at any moment. I got on knee that evening, while we were sharing a bottle of rosé on a bench by the Seine, I continued to botching up his attempt. As soon as our conversation took on a quiet, more serious note, I turned to him with saucer-wide eyes and completely froze. In his confided the topic, to private chips, and I reassured myself I wasn't ready for that kind of talk.

On the second day, he was more successful. We had decided to end this part of our trip with a visit to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica, atop Montmartre. Standing together on a quiet, hidden spot by the church steps, we could see the descending sun cast an orange tint on the City of Lights below us. What happened next took place in slow motion. I knew that's how it felt to me. Literally reaching into his bag, he pulled out a blue velvet box and presented it to me. I felt my eyes grow large again. He tried to kneel, but I hushed "don't kneel!" and he jumped back up. He then made a touching speech, which I'm now unable to recount word for word, but which I'll forever remember because it was so pure and earnest. He spoke from blank after this, and I grew to my senses only when he gingerly placed the ring on my finger. He stood holding each other for 10 minutes, not saying anything, but filled to the brim with all kinds of sensations inside. The sun had almost set on Paris. And then he broke the lovely silence by asking, "Second pot, right?" I snapped out of my trance and, overwhelmed and clumsily nodded my consent. By this time, the neighborhood shops were coming alive with diners enjoying their aperitifs. We walked down the stone paths in an enhanced pace. Around the corner, we found a Chinese restaurant in what seemed out to be the only one open. And we even take our places and plastic menus, with a cheap sparkling drizzled by the waiter behind us, as we celebrated our engagement. (Yeah, we're classy like that.)

More than early April day I've had two birthdays, made a career change and tried to reimagine what I'm going to cater for the next phase of my life. It's the 2010s—I'm living in the here and now, so to speak. Therefore, I said that something new we mumbled with chance. Should we work, do four-nine, study, travel, or do all these at once? With so many things to juggle, it's even easier, and oftentimes it makes more sense, to put "settling down" on the back burner. Young adults today are upside for options. So why am I getting married? Why not just live together, or wait a few more years? Internal funk me in a Psychology Today article suggesting that people wanted marrying for "true love" only in the late 20th century. However, coincidentally, this was also the point when the highest divorce rate. Correlation may not be causation, but I would agree with the message that, contrary to McCandless' advice, marrying, love is not everything you need to make a good marriage.

For starters, maybe you would need two people with good heads on their shoulders, who both understand that they are committing (forever, no backsies) and are freely choosing to do so. Maybe you would also need some friendship (good grief, I'm sounding like a sappy fool) and a bit of luck, but I'm going to keep it vaguely by saying this prolonged to sense. Maybe some shared goals would help, too. I honestly don't know what exactly you need to make a good marriage. For me, the one thing that I know I need to give to my relationship is a large degree of surrender. Into the still-deliberating kind of surrender, simply the acceptance of this truth: that my life will never be 100 percent about me, the persona in it, but that I can, and will not, imagine my life without him either. It's scary, but he completes me, Amy Winehouse-style. I've finally reached a point in our relationship where I can say I trust him 100 percent. Oh 99 percent. Fine, 98 percent. The last one has to, I have to remind, built in him, and to us, to know that we will always listen to each other's voices being picked around. Whatever happens, we're going to make it work...for us.

Now that I'm 28, I wouldn't hardly call myself a romantic, but I do still want my life to be filled with good stories. I'm happy that, for the past 11 years, Jaime Sandoval and I have carved out our own stories. One day, we're going to sit on our rocking chairs and talk our grandkids' ears off about all the small, great and mundane, that their grandparents did together. I bet the only man with whom I can see myself growing old.

My humble opinion is that marriage is not something that one sits down with like proverbial ball and chain. Instead, I find it having to know that, while my soon-to-be husband and I try to maintain some independence, we're always got each other's back. I'm still scared as ever, but now I can't wait to leap with my eyes wide open, so that I can finally place a check on that giant bucket list, and start making another list.

*Aimee Montoya, 28, is a small business owner from Quezon City.*

### Notice to Youngblood contributors:

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the person you're hailing and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

# Dado Banatao looks back

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MORE THAN an enviable expanse of grassy playground spaces with enchanting, fairy-like treehouse features of the Mabolo Elementary School in Iloilo, Cagayan is a welcome structure of a "residence" on an elevated portion of the campus. It is not anyone's weekend home for there are no bedrooms. It is the school's air-conditioned computer center, a gift from the Filipino alumnus of the school, Diosdado Banatao, lauded as the only Filipino major player in Silicon Valley. Dubbed as another Bill Gates, Banatao—like Gates—made use of his engineering and computer background, introduced revolutionary technologies, and went on to build highly successful companies.

There is a joke Banatao family in the deep Iloilo town of Malabay. Banatao has come a long way from his boyhood, when he walked barefoot to the very same school where he has built this compact of his in 1981.

Banatao's not one stop reminding students and teachers that poverty need not be a hindrance to success and that it is only education that can truly transform lives. On this January weekend the full-ruler R. Rubio Banatao Foundation, named to honor his parents, was sponsoring two consecutive teachers training workshops in Ijang: one for high school science teachers and another for Grade 4 elementary teachers in partnership with the Ayala Science Foundation (ASF) to nurture the love of reading in students.

The latter was what brought us to Ijang for ASF's fourth teacher training workshop. (We can look at that which four months ago in the Read-Aloud Reading Program—with a mandatory teacher-teacher training workshop, a library of 60 books by Filipino authors, Reading Pangarap and all other required materials for every participating Grade 4 class, a teacher's manual in basic reading, etc., in six more steps. Something to rave about, as it has reached hundreds to 882

## Commentary

*Neni Sta. Romana Cruz*

schools and introduced the reading habit to 170,487 students. On the other hand, one serious impatient that over the last 10 years of existence and in the context of the Department of Education's latest census of 37,867 public elementary schools, the reach of such an endeavor is admittedly minimal.)

It is interactions with teachers like this that make one come lamenting the seeming futility of even the most earnest of efforts. The 52 teachers from the 13 schools of Ijang were so enthused about discussing other ways to teach read-a-book, reading in class, and reading for pleasure, to the important mind discussion was sharing their views on reading...a right or a privilege? Does one need only good books? Is a good reader a good writer? Juliet Guerrero of Dumpuan III and Lory Cadapucan of Cantoral IS reported using books from the Department's Basic Books. Salmingan has these such books but the distance from their schools limits their purposes.

The teachers were fired up playing vocabulary games, hearing the art of questioning even through a Pinoy theater game, drawing the book characters in their minds, materials given them to pursue the characters' personalities, practicing ways to make each of the 31 reading days of the program exciting and creative. The teachers said that compared to previous workshops, this was refreshingly lively and this time, they did not grow sleepy in the afternoon.

It helped that the Mabolo district supervisor, Jorge Tapiscal, was physically present during the two days. He felt that he had to be familiar himself with the activities of the teaching program so he could supervise it better. It only seemed fair, he said, to do what he was demanding of his teachers and principals for this weekend. To the training team from Manila, it dawned the value the 31 schools from the district of Ijang placed on the program. And to see on the training team Cheska Hagasaring and Bobbit, he was relishing how he wished his administrative duties gave him more time to do what he prefers to do—checking for himself that his Grade 5 students are able to read. Ijang Mayor Julito Tinsulad also manifested support for the project by ensuring that the trainees get to the venue on time.

• • •

It is most heartwarming to witness how somebody like Dado Banatao cares enough for the hometown that nurtured his curiosity and passion to learn, to achieve, to excel. How many Filipinos in the diaspora have not achieved or look back on their roots and share their largesse through logistical support for education.

• • •

If you are in search of wonder these days for you and your students, do take a trip to the Ayala Museum for the opening exhibit of the Encantadia mga Kabatuan (till) to mark 20 years of delighting children with fun and color and wildness.

Another must is the finale to the famous exhibit at the Ateneo Art Gallery. This valuable, interchange exhibit curated by Raoul Isaac for Ambeth Ocampo for the quincentennial has been extended to March 22...to see these mural, "It has for your objects of interest than other Raul also."

*Neni Sta. Romana Cruz (nenicruz@gmail.com) is chair of the National Book Development Board, a trustee of the Go Bingo Studios Foundation and a member of the Iloilo Museum Foundation.*

# A machismo spectacular

LAST JAN. 9, a TV news program brought us our living room staggering visuals of Quiapo's Black Nazarene procession, more precisely the start of 9 million devotees (up by 2 million over the last two years). The incredible mammoth throng, elated, roared and surged, releasing tonnages of adrenaline infused with supplications, compunction, gratitude and hopes of a devotion-filled week. The only subdued part was the commotion as it momentarily came to stunning black, positions by the weight of a cross, contused and begging for help from rough guys like former of Cyrene.

The massive response I saw gave me pause, puzzles. Some manifestations hoped spiritually using muscular force, dragged, pulled, rubbing life and limbs to snatch a piece of blessing (or magic) by wiping a piece of handkerchief, towels on the wooden cross or any body parts of the Poong Nazareno. The only women including rituals those witnessed similar to Black Nazarene, although smaller in size, was the evening Balinese Kecak monkey chant performed by village men in Bali, Indonesia.

I cringed at the face of mass poverty, macho mysticism and childlike worship compressed in a single day of intense fervor, but then, in all probability, I could dream and wonder for parliamentary for the rest of the year, a la tongue-in-cheek.

Perhaps the prelude to the agony and ecstasy of the Black Nazarene is another passion event, an all-day all-night sung ritual called *pagsusulan* chanting (Debasa) performed during Holy Week. Interesting accounts by some parking, letters-tone and elements of Da ist on how to win one illness. Some by verse, line by line, the passages are sung near like an eerie wail, heard by the whole neighborhood through a loud public address system speakers. The singing voices are thin, coarse and trembling, spreading pity and sadness that is portrayed more and doomed to the cross he bears two times). (Weren't the millions of Nazarene devotees also thieves running to avoid heaven by asking Christ to remember them when

## Commentary

*Mariyang Gubalani*

he returned to paradise?)

The musicality of the Nazarene constituencies had been edifying gangs among middle class individuals, many of whom are Catholics themselves, whose lifestyle revolve around pleasures and abundance, inconvenience, self-denial, pains and deprivations are anathema to them. Regrouth, if self-inflicted by fanaticism. Stupidity, if performed by "hapless pokers" motivated by agencies and inhibitions that cannot intrat the supernatural.

Pundits, however, take exception to our oversimplified and unreverent faith displayed in our overcrowded pilgrims' forms like the Virgen de Peñafrancia, Manaoag and Antipolo. The universe tells this: Bilibo dance preparations is pure happiness, a collective tribute for the supernatural instinct of the blessed Virgin Mary toward Filipinos.

The embarrassment of Catholicism in the Philippines was referred to by ex-Pope Benedict XVI as "Folk Catholicism." It's a compliment. Today, our favorite fiesta and weekend rituals are having transplanted by millions of Filipino migrant work hours in Europe, South America and the Middle East, resurrecting fossilized churches and cathedrals back to life. Filipino flocks whose loud and exuberant worship make embellishers envious and puzzled to the original fanfare of Catholicism centuries ago.

Folk Catholicism has substantive scriptural basis. But it's not the scriptural, literal and lining up beliefs of adherents of the solo life and solo serving, two variety. It's the imaginative expression of faith, our oversize penchant, bordering on idolatry, of our devotion to the one faith in our heart in substance and spirit, perhaps God smiles at the ethnic/religio-ethnic liturgies.

The musicians are sensitive to those who are

poor to spare. To follow Christ, you must take up your cross daily. Collect your treasures in heaven, not on earth. He who has no sin, cast the first stone. Turn the other cheek. The prodigal son. G. K. Chesterton calls these paradoxes in the Holy Scriptures the madness of the gospel.

Opinion makers define the breath, depth and width of this third Nazarene phenomenon. Some would say, "The mass energy of a million people is focused on the image and from there it radiates its power back in the crowd." (Inquirer, 1/12/15) The unhygienic crush and garbage left behind, the litanies, wounds and bruises suffered by the naively prompted devoid of reason, are the results of rough sport and divination as the sacred and the profane.

Rene Azurin rejects the role that injustice plays in religious practices as indicative of mass non-assent. Azurin writes, "Even if one commits the sin of omission of mass indifference. Every who may indeed dispense reward and punishment in the after life, that surely, is not a sufficient reason for not addressing injustice now in the earthly life we are certain of and have control over." He further writes, "When mass is finally able to overcome the sin of omission of collective tendencies, he will find that it is actually indispensable in the personal development of a better "inner" human communities. Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI refer to such communities as a "Civilization of Love."

Magi Chris Vogh. The new archbishop of Manila confirmed the enlightened counsel: "One cannot understand a Nazarene deficit. Only a divine can."

If priest at the Christ The Ring parish supported to put an end to the humongous, problem-exempt Nazareno procession. That's wishful thinking.

• • •

*Mariyang Gubalani writes a column for the Iglesya section. Email: bgubalani@gmail.com*

MEMBER PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

# No action in Baclaran

LETTERS

LAST YEAR, more than 2 million devotees of our Mother of Perpetual Help signed a manifesto asking for the closing of the Redemptorist Road to curb security and unmasking the Natural Owner of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Baclaran, Parañaque City of illegal vendors and criminals. Copies of the manifesto were given to several government agencies, including the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which sent out with a statement that by his order the roads will be opened to motorists and the public.

More than two years ago, on Dec. 11, 2008, I filed a formal complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman demanding accountability of public officials who had allowed the illegal occupation of the streets and failed to keep the streets safe from criminals, thereby denying the public of the right. Ful use of the streets.

I filed the complaint on Dec. 11, 2008. The basis of the complaint is the constitutional mandate of the anti-graft body to exercise the power to "[d]irect, upon complaint or at its own instance, any public official or employee of the Government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof as well as any government-owned or controlled corporation with original chartes, to perform and expedite any act or duty required in law, or to stop, prevent and correct any abuse or impropriety in the performance of duties." (Sec. 17 (1), Constitution)

Unfortunately, to date nothing has been heard about and no action has been done on my complaint and the manifesto, and the public continues to suffer from illegal vendors and those engaged in lawlessness.

—EDGARDO G.M. KIVAL
114-B Elma, Buenos Cerdo

# Skyway O & M acted fast on reports re falling debris

MIC REPO to the letter of Carlos E. Villanueva (Inquirer, 1/11/12), regarding his unfortunate experience last Dec. 18, 2011. We take exception to Villanueva's claim that our company did not act immediately even after several vehicles, his included, were reported to have been damaged by falled debris while traveling southbound on our toll road in the vicinity of Sales Bridge.

One of our patrol officers assigned on site within minutes after an incident the report of the first incident which occurred just before 8 a.m. At that time, it was still not clear that debris was falling from the Sales Bridge down on our toll road below. However, our patrol officer, supported by our CCTV units tuned to our head office, diligently scanned the area to looking for concrete who may have inadvertently hurled the debris. Nothing was observed.

Before 9 a.m. we were informed by the Department of Public Works and Highways about the damage on their Sales Bridge. By 11:30 a.m. of the same day, a DPWH official arrived at the site to inspect and direct repair works. Although the Sales Bridge is not within our area of responsibility, we continued to post traffic enforcers there until the DPWH completed repairing the damage a few days after.

We hope this clarifies that the Skyway O & M Corp. was not the cause of Villanueva's or anyone else's misfortune that day, and that contrary to his belief, we had actually acted quickly and efficiently to ensure the safety of motorists on our toll road and on the government's Sales Bridge.

—RAMON M. BORROMEO,
corporate secretary
Office of the President,
Skyway O & M Corp.

# Super-legalistic defense wasting impeachment court's time

LEGO DEFENSE counsel Serafin Cuevas authored his pleading for the former to dismiss the impeachment case against Chief Justice Renato Corona for not following due process. It seems that the defense counsel will persist on that tack.

The lately-created roaming time with further super-legalistic debates, this non-lawyer suggests that the Senate can give mercy in its next issue in Kapihan ng Tigdas, Amanda Dressalia or, preferably, Fr. Joaquin Bernas for any of them to agree with or refute the opinion of a suspected former Supreme Court chief justice, Antonio Perfecto Gualberto de los Angeles Cuevas.

In his Jan. 13 Inquirer column, Bernas refuted two of the following points:

a. The Bill of Rights says, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

b. Public office is not life nor liberty.

c. Is public office the "property" of a public official?

d. No one has a vested right to a public office. It is a mere privilege temporarily exercised by the main to an individual, to be exercised or used for the benefit of the people. As the 1987 Constitution states, "a public office is a public trust."

e. Ergo, the due process clause in the Bill of Rights does not cover the return to the main of a misused public office, such as the Office of the Chief Justice.

By the way, I have not read in the business any disclosure by Bernas thereon that he is the brother of the father of Luis Bernas's husband, Luigi Bernas. Should that relationship not warrant a disclosure whenever Father Bernas writes publicly about the impeachment case of Chief Justice Corona, a protected ally and protector of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the father of Mr. Bernas' husband?

—RICARDO T. PERDIDO
rtperdido@gmail.com

# Probe into alleged misspending of JBSP funds in order

I BELIEVE that Sen. Franklin Drilon is on the right track in calling for an investigation into the alleged misuse of a $23.9-million World Bank loan to the Supreme Court.

The World Bank approved the $23.9 million loan for the Judicial Reform Support Project (JBSP), which seeks to enhance the Judiciary's efficiency and integrity. And if reports are accurate, the bank loan wants the Supreme Court to refund the total of $199,000 covering "ill- payments" deemed "ineligible" or misreflected under the terms of the JBSP.

Drilon is right. Financial arrangements like the JBSP loan "constitute a form of financial drain on the already limited discretionary resources at the disposal of the government" and therefore "there is a need to closely monitor the implementation and disbursement of such funds and institute improved safeguards in future general appropriation measures."

I am one with the alleged "misappropriation of the JBSP funds by the Supreme Court," the World Bank would now think twice about extending the country more loans for urgent projects.

The module with some of the observations of foreign funding is that they tend to see them as they please, not according to the agreed terms of reference.

It would seem, based on the recent recommendations of the World Bank, that Court Administrator Midas Marquez and Atty. Jose Midas the checkers order, buying laptops and paying for the food and airfare of justices attending conferences abroad. No wonder World Bank is very sore. Chief Justice Renato Corona and his government, Marquez, should explain that to the Filipino people in the interest of transparency and accountability.

—JAIME DELARAMA
jaime_delarama12@yahoo.com

# Disappointing, inexcusable, out-of-place objection

HON. ALAN Peter Cayetano is one of the few senators whose views on many public issues I have learned to respect so highly. But his behavior on the second day of the hearing of the impeachment case against Chief Justice Renato Corona has disappointed me no end, indeed I am referring to his sudden manifestation of frontal disagreement with the ruling of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, as chair of the impeachment court, denying the motions of the prosecution to subpoena the Chief Justice, his wife and all members of the Court en banc to appear as witnesses during the hearing. Whether or not Enrile's ruling was legally right, or legally wrong, was certainly beside the point. The point is Cayetano's manifestation of disagreement was common enough to be expected, even and out of place.

Why? Well, firstly, the prosecution's motion was submitted to the impeachment court as early as Jan. 12, or four days before the scheduled start of the hearing. As such, any right-thinking person will refuse to believe that the motion had not been subjected to a prior serious sweeping the senator-judges, in which their respective opinions were surely first heard and objectively tackled. Secondly, the ruling, as read, was long enough to have comprehensively covered all the pros and cons... which, in fact, must have necessarily become stock and irrelevant, as far as each individual senator-judge was concerned, soon after the ruling had been formalized. In other words, at least for the purpose of that particular ruling, there need not be any undue surprise when it was actually read on Jan. 17, such as that which had quite understandably came from Cayetano.

By the way, wasn't Cayetano present in the course? Most presumably yes. But even if he was absent, methinks his behavior in the hearing was totally unacceptable. The main reason why I say so is because of Sen. Cayetano's self-proclaimed role as a senator-judge, or a lawyer for the prosecution! At any rate, looking at the senators who raised their hands for or against the ruling when Enrile had finally decided that the house be divided openly, some questions could have developed—rightly or wrongly, yet very persuasively—a tough rundown of who would ultimately vote for Corona's acquittal or conviction. On the other hand, if Cayetano's behavior was not a sign of political grandstanding—he is due for reelection next year—I do not know what to be.

—RUDY L. CORONEL
rudycoronel2004@yahoo.com


dti

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICES (SRPs) FOR SELECTED BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES

(Updated as of 19 January 2012)

These SRPs are applicable only in areas not declared under state of calamity.
Per Malacañang Proclamation No. 300 dated 28 December 2011, the areas declared under state of calamity and under price freeze are Regions VII, IX, X, XI and CARAGA.

| BASIC NECESSITIES | SRP |
|---|---|
| CANNED SARDINES (Regular or Easy Open) | |
| 155 g (Lucky 7) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Ligo) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Delimondo) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Mega Sardines) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Jolly) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Hunter Blend) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Mega Sardines) | 13.50 |
| 155 g (Century Tuna) | 13.50 |
| CONDENSED MILK | |
| Carabao | |
| Alaska Evaporated Filled Milk | 46.50 |
| Alaska Evaporated Filled Milk | 13.50 |
| Cow | |
| Alaska Filled Milk | 34.75 |
| Alaska Full Cream Milk | 46.50 |
| Angel Filled Milk | 34.50 |
| Bear Brand Filled Milk | 46.50 |
| Powdered Milk | |
| Alaska Filled Milk | 46.50 |
| Bear Brand Filled Milk | 46.50 |
| Nido Fortified Full Cream Milk | 13.50 |
| Alaska Full Cream Milk | 13.50 |
| Bear Brand Full Cream Milk | 46.50 |
| CORNED BEEF | |
| Regular | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 43.75 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 35.00 |
| Easy Open | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 43.75 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 35.00 |
| Corned Tuna Chunkies | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 43.75 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 35.00 |
| Corned Tuna Premium | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 47.75 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 38.50 |
| Hamonado Classic | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 43.00 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 34.50 |
| CUTTLEFISH/SQUID (DAPA) | |
| Mr. Chips (Black Seasoning) | 6.50 |
| Pusit (Whole Blue Brand) | 6.50 |
| Sutil Bar (Habanero Flavor) | 6.50 |
| Sutil Bar (Regular) | 6.50 |
| Tasty Bar (Natural Flavor, Original Sweet, Hot & Spicy) | 6.50 |
| Tasty Bar (Regular) | 6.50 |
| Tasty Bar (Spicy, Without Flavor) | 6.50 |
| Tokneneng (Spicy/Regular) | |
| Twinpack Mr. Chips (White) | 6.50 |
| Twinpack Mr. Chips (Original) | 6.50 |
| PRIME COMMODITIES | SRP |
| BATTERIES | |
| Carbonic, 1.5VDC-1 pcs-AA, Red | Pack of 2 |
| Carbonic, 1.5VDC-1 pcs-AA, Black | Pack of 2 |
| Eveready, 1 pcs-AA, Red | Pack of 4 |
| Eveready, 1.5VDC-1 pcs-AA, Red | Pack of 2 |
| Eveready, 1.5VDC-2pcs-D, Black | Pack of 2 |
| Energizer Max - 1 pcs-AA | Pack of 2 |
| INSTANT NOODLES - CHICKEN FLAVOR | |
| Lucky Me - Super Kikiam | 50 g (Supermarkets) |
| Lucky Me - Super Kikiam | 50 g (Sari-sari) |
| Pancit Canton | 60 g |
| Pancit Canton | 60 g (Supermarkets) |
| Pancit Canton | 60 g (Sari-sari) |
| INSTANT NOODLES - BEEF FLAVOR | |
| Lucky Me - Super Kikiam | 50 g (Supermarkets) |
| Lucky Me - Super Kikiam | 50 g (Sari-sari) |
| Pancit Canton | 60 g (Supermarkets) |
| Pancit Canton | 60 g (Sari-sari) |

Note: - 20% price reduction on the above specified SRP for 5 pcs packaging and 10% price reduction on the above specified SRP for 10 pcs packaging

Consumer Tips
- Carefully check and compare the weights of competing brands.
- Make sure that prices of each unit is of the same with the small item price. If prices differ, pay the lower amount.
- Check the expiry dates of food items.

For inquiries and/or complaints, call the nearest DTI Regional or Provincial Office in your area, or call:

DTI Direct 751.3330.

| PRIME COMMODITIES | SRP |
|---|---|
| CANNED MEAT | |
| Corned Beef | |
| 150 g (Supermarkets) | 39.50 |
| 150 g (Sari-sari) | 30.75 |
| Purefoods Chinese Style Pork | 150 g (Supermarkets) 39.50 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 30.75 |
| Chinese Style Pork | 150 g 39.50 |
| Premium Chinese | 150 g 37.75 |
| MEAT LOAF | |
| Argentina | 150 g 15.95 |
| | 175 g 17.95 |
| Jolly | 150 g 14.25 |
| Purefoods | 150 g (Supermarkets) 15.95 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 12.95 |
| Jolly | 150 g 14.75 |
| Winner | 175 g 15.95 |
| CORNED BEEF | |
| Argentina | 150 g 37.75 |
| | 175 g 42.95 |
| CDO | 150 g (Supermarkets) 33.95 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 27.95 |
| Purefoods | 150 g (Supermarkets) 39.75 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 30.75 |
| Argentina | 175 g 32.95 |
| Jolly | 175 g 32.95 |
| Winner | 150 g (Supermarkets) 37.95 |
| | 175 g (Supermarkets) 31.95 |
| | 150 g (Supermarkets) 32.95 |
| Winner's Chunk | 150 g 36.95 |
| CORNED LOAF | |
| Argentina | 150 g 15.95 |
| | 175 g 17.25 |
| CDO | 150 g 14.75 |
| Purefoods | 150 g (Supermarkets) 15.75 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 12.95 |
| Winner | 175 g (Supermarkets) 15.95 |
| Winner Chunk | 150 g (Supermarkets) 15.75 |
| CORNED TS | |
| Purefoods | |
| Daily Pack (On Bottle) | 150 ml (Supermarkets) 12.25 |
| | 150 ml (Palengke) 12.00 |
| Purefoods (On Bottle) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 30.40 |
| | 350 ml (Palengke) 30.00 |
| Silver Swan | 350 ml 31.00 |
| KR3 | |
| Daily Pack (On Bottle & PET) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 31.25 |
| | 350 ml (Palengke) 30.00 |
| Mushroom Special Pack Sauce (On Bottle) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 33.95 |
| | 350 ml (Palengke) 33.00 |
| Silver Swan (Special) | 350 ml 44.25 |
| Lorins (On Bottle) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 31.50 |
| | 350 ml (Palengke) 31.00 |
| Daily Pack (On Bottle) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 16.25 |
| | 350 ml (Palengke) 15.95 |
| Silver Swan | 350 ml 32.00 |
| Lorins (On Bottle) | 350 ml (Supermarkets) 32.75 |
| CORNED HAM | |
| Argentina | 150 g 15.95 |
| | 175 g 17.25 |
| Jolly | 150 g 14.75 |
| Purefoods | 150 g (Supermarkets) 15.75 |
| | 150 g (Sari-sari) 12.95

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Connie B. Fernandez

# The importance of being Niel Tupas

## Cebu tries to break world record in chess

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Cebu City

AFTER making it to the Guinness World Records for the largest dance class in the world in 2009, Cebu is set to break another world record, this time, in a chess tournament.

Cebu City Sports Commission (CCSC) chairman Edward Hayo said they would attempt to break the record of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, for holding the world's largest chess game where 1,216 participated.

Hayo said more than 50,000 participants have registered for the "Cebu Chess Festival: World's Largest Chess Tournament" that started in October 2011 with a series of elimination rounds.

The elimination rounds were being held in various participating schools and were scheduled to end before a two-day grand tournament today and tomorrow at the Cebu City Sports Center where about 40,000 Brain Ice would compete.

"We didn't realize that the number would balloon up to more than 50,000 after we launched an aggressive grassroots program that took three months of intensive chess workshops in over 150 public schools," said Hayo, who is set to join their hero behind the 2009 largest dance class record.

### Training

The CCSC partnered with the Department of Education, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Cebu City Government for the chess program, which trained elementary and high school students from public and private schools.

As part of the program, the CCSC conducted chess training for teachers from the participating schools. The teachers were assisted by volunteer trainers in teaching chess to their students.

Hayo said introducing sports, such as chess, to the younger generation was one way of taking them productive and keeping chess away from illegal drugs and alcohol abuse.

"Chess possesses a deeper type of discipline. It involves mental agility and intelligence. It is a great partner for education," he said.

Hayo expressed confidence that the Philippines would overtake Russia's record, noting the high turnout of registered participants.

The 95 participating schools, all in Cebu City, include the Apas National High School, which has 1,364 participants, the Barrio Luz Elementary School (1,360), the Don Carlos Gothong Memorial High High School (1,289) and the Abellana National School (1,150).

He said he expected the number of participating schools to increase.

If successful, this is not the first time for Cebu to bag a world record.

In 2009, the city gathered 7,270 participants who performed a 10-minute routine of bangle, cha-cha and rumba.

They bested Hungary and made it to the 2011 Guinness World Records edition.

For the attempt at the world's largest chess tournament, Hayo said they only targeted 1,500 participants.

But based on the registration lists and tournament record forms submitted by the participating schools to the CCSC, the registered participants have reached more than 50,000. The deadline of the registration was extended to Jan. 16.

### Promoting Cebu

Elementary and secondary students, aged 6 to 16, comprise more than 90 percent or 43,171 of the 50,000 registered participants. The rest are college students and professionals.

The tournaments were held in multipurpose halls and covered courts for easy monitoring.

The top players in the class sections and seasons will represent the class section in the school-wide competition.

The top 8 to 32 players in the school-wide competition will represent the school in the grand finals.

"Having a Guinness Record is one way of promoting Cebu as a sports hub, a way of promoting sports tourism. It is also a motivation for students, teachers and other parties to participate. It also developed their love chess," said Hayo.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta
Iloilo City

THIS may be the most important case both in his professional and political career.

But doubts have been raised about the capability of Iloilo Rep. Niel "Junjun" Tupas Jr. to lead the team of prosecutors in the impeachment trial against Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The doubts grew when the prosecution panel appeared unprepared to present its case during the second day of the impeachment trial.

Tupas acknowledged the combined legal experience of the defense team but was confident that the prosecution, aided by at least 15 private lawyers, would successfully convict Corona.

"The impeachment is more than legal technicalities. It involves the search for the truth, making our democratic institutions work and our officials accountable," he told the lawyers.

Tupas can also lean on another Visayan, a member of the prosecution team who is not only a veteran lawyer and congressman but is also once a stranger to impeachment proceedings.

### Duca

Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza was one of the defense lawyers in the impeachment trial against former President Joseph Estrada.

Although he is proud of being part of the prosecution team, Daza, 73, is comfortable playing both roles.

The impeachment trial of the Chief Justice was different from Estrada's, he added, because "this impeachment of the former President was orchestrated by the country and was not supported by the majority of the Filipino people.

"We all know that he was succeeded by an administration, by Gloria Arroyo, who was accused of several illegal activities, of corruption," Daza said.

Daza has been practicing law since 1957 after placing 11th in the bar examinations. He is also a member of the State Bar of California in the United States where he practiced law when the Philippines was under martial law and after serving as congressman, representing Northern Samar for five years.

When he returned to the country in 1986, he was appointed deputy minister of the Presidential Commission on Good Government by former President Corazon Aquino.

Throughout his political career, Daza has stayed with the Liberal Party (LP) and was LP president from 1988 to 1994.

Considered one of Eastern Visayas' old guards, Daza was congressman from 1987 to 1998 and Northern Samar governor from 2001 to 2010.

In the 2010 elections, his son, Paul, took over as governor while he returned to his old seat in Congress.

### No veteran

Unlike Daza, 41-year-old Tupas cannot exactly be considered as a veteran lawyer.

Although he has been a lawyer for 12 years, more than half of it is spent while serving an elective position in Iloilo.

He earned his law degree from the College of Law of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman in 1998. He obtained his political science degree, magna cum laude, also in UP in 1993.

After passing the bar in 1999, he joined the Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Office in Makati City where he became a junior partner specializing in litigation.

His wife, Precious Angeli Lee-Tupas, is junior partner (or heard of the same law firm and is his chief of staff in the House of Representatives.

The couple has a daughter and a son.

But five years was his law practice, Tupas entered politics—a move opposed by many in Iloilo since he belonged to one of the province's dominant political clans whose bailiwick is in Barotac Viejo.

The eldest of seven siblings, Tupas first served as provincial board member from 2004 to 2007 representing Iloilo's 5th district.

He was elected representative of the district in the 2007 elections defeating his cousin Enrique Garfias Jr. who was running to replace his brother former Iloilo Rep. and Vice Gov. Ruben Garfias.

Tupas was reelected in 2010 beating his estranged cousin Jerry Trenas.

"We respected him to become a politician because since law school, we know he was already being groomed to run for a position in Iloilo," said a schoolmate of Tupas at the UP College of Law who spoke on condition of anonymity.

### More of a politician

Tupas' schoolmate described the legislator as "in the middle of the pack" in his class at the law school.

"He distinguished himself more as a politician than as a lawyer because of his relatively short law practice in Manila," the schoolmate of Tupas said.

The dominance of the Tupas political clan has become more prominent under the Aquino administration.

His father, Senator Cesi Niel Tupas Sr., was named in November last year as a director of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. He was in the fourth district congressional race last 2010 elections but lost to Prospero Pichay.

Two of Representative Tupas' siblings were also appointed to government positions last year.

Former Barotac Viejo town Mayor Neal Tupas, who lost to Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor in the 2010 gubernatorial race, is a director of the Department of Agriculture as regional technical assistant for Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

Their sister, Ibrilien Tupas Ballesta, is a national committee of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Representative Tupas' younger brother Niel Tupas III, is mayor of their hometown in Barotac Viejo where Patty Ballesta, the congressman's brother-in-law, is councilor.

Native Tupas, the youngest sibling, is on his second term as Iloilo City councilor. Another brother, Nelo Tupas, is a member of the Iloilo provincial board.

In the 15th Congress, Tupas authored 28 bills and resolutions and coauthored 64 others including those on the impeachment cases of resigned Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Corona and Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, according to the House of Representatives' website.

About half of the bills and resolutions were of local significance like the renaming and establishment of schools and reorganization of roads.

### Denials

Tupas has repeatedly dismissed criticisms that he has been pursuing the removal from office of perceived allies of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo because of the string of graft cases filed against his father in the past administration.

In January 2007, the Office of the Ombudsman under Gutierrez ordered the dismissal and removal from office of then Governor Tupas and then provincial board members Cecilia Capadosa and Domingo Gox for gross misconduct for illegal disbursement of P65,000 to the regional chapter of the provincial board members league in 2004.

But Tupas Sr. fought the order and refused to leave the Capitol. About 200 heavily armed police men entered the provincial Capitol on Jan. 17, 2007, in an attempt to drag the governor out of his office.

Tupas Jr. defended his father and barred the policemen who stormed their M-16 rifles at him.

The standoff was resolved after the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order stopping the dismissal order.

PRESIDENT Aquino talks with his political allies and some of the 188 congressmen who voted for the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona in a caucus. Among them is Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., one seat to the left of Mr. Aquino.

HOUSE prosecution head Rep. Niel Tupas Jr.

The Advertising Board of the Philippines elected its 2012 officers and directors during its annual general membership meeting held last 18 January 2012 at the Mandarin Oriental Makati City. This year's officers are (seated from L-R): Alden Castañeda (MORES)-Treasurer, Tessie Celestino-Howland (BBA) - Corporate Secretary, Ricky Alegre (UPMG) - Chairman, Alex Syfu (4As) - Vice Chairman and Margot Torres (PAVAI) - PR & Information Officer. Directors include (standing L-R): Frank Alvarez (OAAP), Ed Acosta (OAAP), Jose Sy (CAAP), Allen Velez (ASAP), Yoshi Akaiko (CAAP), TJ Parpan (MMAP), Madonna Tamayo (ASAP), Gigi Tibi (4As), Rudy Villar (PANA) and Pepito Chiuto (UPMG). Not shown in photo are directors Lorraine Schuck (BBA) and Mackoy Gaviguse (MSAP).

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

# Luisita farmers bracing for arrest

TARLAC CITY—Farmers who occupied land inside Hacienda Luisita that is now owned by a bank are bracing for arrest as they refuse to leave the property and expressed defiance by serving their version of an eviction notice against the bank and the Cojuangcos, relatives of President Aquino who owned the 6,000-hectare sugar estate.

Insisting that the land belonged to them and not to the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) that came to own it, farmers have installed a makeshift prayer on the 184-hectare piece of property asking RCBC and the Cojuangcos to leave.

The farmers made the symbolic gesture after the Tarlac prosecutor's office issued a resolution saying there was basis to charge the farmers with grave coercion and illegal occupation of property. The resolution came from the office of Liza Oliveros, assistant Tarlac prosecutor.

RCBC, which bought the land from the firm that manages the hacienda, sued the farmers last year.

The Supreme Court, in a decision that ordered the distribution of land in the hacienda to complainants with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, removed the property from agrarian reform coverage and declared RCBC as a buyer in good faith.

The property became RCBC's on Nov. 25, 2004 through foreclosure after the Luisita Industrial Property Corp. (Lipco) failed to pay its loan. The property cost P411.8 million.

In July 2013, the farmers occupied the land, which is planted to sugarcane, and built portions of it. RCBC sent 23 farmers after the occupation.

Leo Bala, head of the United Luisita Workers Union, said the land is "morally and historically" theirs.

He said it was impossible for RCBC not to know that the land was covered by agrarian reform because Hacienda Luisita had been in the news for so long. "How could that be in good faith?" Bala said.

In her resolution, Oliveros said there was basis to charge the farmers because of two things—they did not drop occupying the land and the Supreme Court had ruled that the property was outside the coverage of agrarian reform.

"The respondents cannot escape indictment," said the resolution. "The allegation that constituting the acts imputed against them remain uncontroverted…" it said. /o Marlene Continente, Inquirer General Luzon

NEVER mind the wrong grammar, but the sign is clear about one thing—stockpiled lumber. It was put in front of what remains of a house that was all but destroyed during the Dec. 17 disaster that struck Cagayan de Oro City.

## Volume of 'killer' logs in Iligan awes execs

ILIGAN CITY—The amount of logs that made the Dec. 17 flooding here deadlier was far bigger than officials had thought, according to assessment operations to remove the logs that rolled down from the mountains of Sitio del Sur.

"There are more logs than we earlier thought…" Sheriffmaker Ulach.

According to Ulach, the taxpayers devoted to removing the logs proved to be no match for the amount of logs that have destruction and heavy rains had dumped on a 14-kilometer stretch of this city's coast.

Only two cranes are on a mission to remove the logs, equipped with two chainsaws to cut the logs into pieces for use as housing materials for thousands of residents whose homes were destroyed when the flood-borne logs pummeled into them.

Ulach said in the run the logs are being removed, the operation to clear the city's coast could take at least a year.

The logs are loaded in a cove in Barangay Tenani where

> "There are more logs than we earlier thought…"

they are processed into lumber at least 12 hours after they are being sawn for the backing with each lone having the capacity to carry four logs per trip.

The need to remove the logs became urgent several days after Typhoon Pablo and the subsequent flash floods, especially during low tide, as the logs are blocking the coastline.

During high tide, some carry the logs onto harvesting zone that pummel their homes, the fishermen said.

In some coastal villages, the logs impede the flow of water in canals and creeks in the sea, making them vulnerable to flooding when it rains and raising health concerns over stagnant waters, residents said.

Officials have urged the workforce for the handling operations and appealed for help from other government agencies and non-government groups.

According to city administrator Ulach, the cost of managing August would be turned into a big joint. "Lumber preservation will stabilize," he said.

The nongovernment group BanPab said it planned to lend a hand now to workers in August to speed up the processing of the logs.

Aside from the logs that litter the city's streets, residents and workers are also trying to remove up to waist-deep mud that the Dec. 17 disaster left on city streets.

Executive Sangguniang Lawmaker, official in charge of road-clearing operations, said the city hopes to be able to borrow more equipment from the Department of Public Works and Highways. Ryan O. Rosario, Inquirer Mindanao

A WORKER uses through log that fell into Iligan City from the mountains of Lanao del Sur.

## No 'finders keepers' for jewels found in city dump

By Jhaymee Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The saying "Finders keepers" didn't hold true for three workers who found pieces of gold jewelry worth about P2 million at the Mandaue City dump on Jan. 13.

They after they stumbled on the treasure, the three—Rodrigo Cotta, Jhonnie Quiaon and Nida Manuzalon—found that it was not theirs to keep.

The three were digging for usable materials in the dump when they found boxes that turned out to contain the jewels—three gold bracelets, a gold necklace with pendant and two gold rings.

With the help of scrap dealer Fernando Bayless, Cotta pawned one of the bracelets for P127,000. Cotta gave P36,000 to Bayless, treated neighbors to food and drinks and bought materials to repair his shack.

Manuzalon told police she sold another bracelet for P15,000.

The celebrations, however, was short-lived. Envious neighbors reported the windfall to authorities on Jan. 17.

Insp. Ferrel Morjos, of the Mandaue police theft and robbery section, said the three turned over to police the pieces of jewelry except for the bracelets that had been pawned or sold.

Cotta, according to Morjos, returned P36,000 and a pawn receipt. Bayless returned P16,000.

The identity of the jewel owners surfaced on a gold University of San Carlos (USC) 1962 class ring that bore the name Vicente H. Yao. Police found Yao easy, indeed, at a private house of USC.

Parents of information started to stench after the name was found. The three finders said the pile of trash that yielded the jewels came from Indap Dried Mangoes, a mango processing firm owned by the family of Yao.

Senior Insp. Rowel Gabrase, Mandaue police chief, said the Yaos were initially unaware that they had lost the valuables.

Informants chit Cinna, lawyer of the Yaos, said the family at first didn't know they had lost the pieces of jewelry when Vicente's wife and children were cleaning the upper floor of their home.

When they found boxes empty by intuition, they decided to burn these and throw them into garbage sacks that were later collected and brought to the dump, said Delia Cotta.

The Yaos rewarded each finder, minus the jewels, said the lawyer. Gilbanse, however, said the Yaos still have to prove ownership. According to Delia Cotta, the Yaos didn't plan to sue the three finders.

## Gov't to sacrifice 300 trees to widen highway in Pangasinan

BAGUIO CITY—The government will sacrifice at least 300 trees for a road-widening project to convert Pangasinan-Ilocos Sur boundary of trees had been killed earlier, according to officials, prompting an environmental group to appeal for the trees to be relocated instead of cut.

The Save the Trees Coalition, which is based in Pampanga, has appealed to Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to move to curb-hulling the trees, which stands transforming them to another area favorable for growth.

Emmanuel Dino, public works district engineer in eastern Pangasinan, said an inventory by the DPWH showed at least 300 tall, grown trees, ranging gmelina, narra, acacia, fir trees and assorted fruit trees are on the path of the planned road expansion on MacArthur Highway from the town of Villasis to Sison.

Many of these would be cut, he said.

Bernardo Fernida, community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro) in Urdaneta City, said more than 1,000 trees are along the highway.

He said his office has yet to receive information of the actual number of trees that would be cut, but that he was sure it would exceed 300.

The inventory will be completed by the end of January and will be submitted to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, who would issue the permit to cut trees.

Of the 321 trees that had been marked for chain-saiting, 256 had been cut. The trees were estimated to be between 20 to 30 years old.

A DPWH who painted himself green to symbolize a tree draws attention during a rally in Baguio City against plans to relocate pine trees for a road expansion plan.

Estrada said the kin of the killed trees were denied the division office of the Department of Education in Binalonan town and the Cenro office in Urdaneta City.

Officials of Binalonan and Urdaneta towns and police have also requested to be given permits.

In Central Luzon, DPWH has applied permits to fell trees on segments of the Manila-Dagupan Highway in Tarlac for the highway's expansion.

Ricardo Calderon, DENR regional director, said the DPWH request is pending at the DENR's central office.

Calderon said he was in a workshop on Thursday and could not immediately say how many trees are due to be felled along MacArthur Highway.

Loreta Malabanan, chief of the regional DPWH conservation division, confirmed the request for permits to cut trees. She, however, could not say how many trees would be killed.

DPWH has been widening and building roads along the highway from Dagupan to Moncada, Tarlac City to Gerona and Bamban to Capas since the last quarter of 2011.

In a previous campaign against tree-cutting for highway projects, environmental groups painted human figures on trees to try to convince government officials and workers to stop cutting them.

Some environmental activists fighting logging in the country's dwindled forests have also resorted to planting milk iron tree trunks to stop loggers from cutting these. The mills are equipped to destroy the blades of chainsaws.

In this city, organizers said at least 3,000 took part in a rally to denounce plans by the country's biggest mall developer to relocate up to 100 pine trees for an expansion plan that had been given the go-signal by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies of government.

A plea by SM to transfer the trees by earth-balling to another site cannot succeed, many of the mall developer had assured all the permits it needed to remove the trees from Camp John Hay to build a bigger mall and parking space that SM said addon to its commitment to protect the environment while preserving cultural heritage.

President Aquino has issued an executive order banning commercial logging nationwide but tree-cutting continues in many parts of the country, including the Sierra Madre mountain range where environmentalists say illegal loggers have felled thousands of trees.

Yolanda Ilarde, Inquirer Northern Luzon; with reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

**Ailing LeBron powers Heat past Kobe, Lakers**

MIAMI—LeBron James struggled off the flu symptoms to deliver a game-winning 31 points as the Miami Heat beat Kobe Bryant and the LA Lakers, 88-87, in the clash of the NBA's two biggest names on Thursday. The Heat, missing injured guard Dwyane Wade, were in trouble from the first quarter and never looked in danger. In other NBA games, defending champion Dallas Mavericks held off the Utah Jazz, 94-91, and the Pistons survived the Hornets, 90-89, in overtime. **Agence, A7**

SPORTS

Editor: Teddyboy S. Molmisores
Assistant Editor: Francis T. J. Ochoa

# Texters write off Tigers in Finals opener

By Mueang K. Castillo

DROOL, Davao del Sur—Getting off to a strong start, Talk 'N Text shunned Powerade when's the boys early with a lopsided 118-110 victory at the Davao del Sur Coliseum here last night to take a 1-0 lead in their PBA Philippine Cup title series.

Shutting down Gary David had been a nightmare for the Tigers' two previous foes, but the Texters had a defensive answer.

Talk N Text manhandled the undermanned Tigers in their own rain-soaked gym, high-scoring game. Sitting 68 points at the half and the scoring parade rolls until 118-89 remaining Tabing inside of as many as 20 points, the Texters put a dent on the sky-high confidence of Powerade.

"I think we did a good job containing him," coach Chot Reyes said of David, who came into the game averaging a shade over 20 points in nine playoff games. "It's a big part of our defensive objective (for the series)."

The Tigers played without No. 1 draft pick JV Casio because of a pulled right hamstring.

"All we got twice 1-0 lead and we have to be ready for a Powerade comeback," added Reyes, whose defensive ploy held the Tigers scoreless in the final 10:05.

Powerade got an ebner from 6'7"/6 holes Hamfild de Ocampo drained two straight triples to ensure order for the Tropang Texters.

Ryan Reyes, who came into the game with a rapid shooting notes, hit three triples in the first period alone and the Texters actually ended their last four wins from that range in the opening quarter for a 38-20 lead.

Their hot shooting didn't end there as Larry Fonacier, after Reyes had drained his fourth trey early in the second, joined the fray by hitting two more for the Texters for a 48-30 lead.

Jason Castro led the Texters with 23 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Game 2 is scheduled Monday night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City with the Texters shooting for another victory to come down toward what no other team since the defunct Great Taste in 1980 has ever achieved, repeat as all-Filipino champion.

Talk 'N Text held David to "just" 10 points and the Powerade gunners managed to hit double figures only at the 1:54 mark of the third.

**Talk 'N Text 118—Castro 23 Ayaa 16, Ilagan 15, Fonacier 14, De Ocampo 10, Pinto 10, Reyes R 9, Reyes J 8, Cruz 5, Dillinger 5, Asi 3, Ebona 2, Tenorio 0, Ilagan 0, Ilagan 0, Ilagan

# AirAsia Patriots seek lead vs San Miguel Beermen

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATHENS to build on their opening win, the six-time Philippine Patriots go for the solo lead today against a San Miguel side still trying to find its stride in the Asean Basketball League.

Yet the time coach Glenn Capacio is still wary of San Miguel, the perennial favorite which absorbed a shocking loss in their league debut.

"We're going to play against a big team," he said. "They have wing men who are bigger than us and they got the advantage also inside."

In what were possible SRE as a title-match preview, the Patriots shoot for a second straight victory against the Beermen at 6 p.m. at the Visayas Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The two Philippine squads got off to contrasting starts with the Patriots dumping the Shanghai Cobras, 99-90, in the start of the home-and-away regional tournament in Manila last Saturday.

After ruling a preseason tournament, the Beermen surprisingly absorbed an overtime loss against the Westports Malaysia Dragons, 77-83, in Kuala Lumpur.

"Overall, we just have to come back," said Capacio. "There was no meeting on the part of our imports. But this time, they're all ready."

Due enough, Nikkita Miller came out clicking against the Cobras as her scorers Best Imports powered the Patriots with 24 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks.

Anthony Johnson, the Patriots' other American reinforcement, shot 17.

In a bid to quickly boost their campaign, the Beermen tapped 6-foot-9 Mikal D. Longer sign Thomas ready this week to replace Richard Jones, who had a measly 11 points and zero rebounds against the Dragons.

COMMENTS ▼

# POC to raise own funds for Olympic participation

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR A CHANGE, the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) will rely on its resources to fund the country's campaign in the Olympics.

In an unprecedented move, the POC will set up a marketing body and set aside funding from the Philippine Sports Commission, said Manny Lopez, the country's chief of missions to the London Olympics, during yesterday's Kwentuan.

Lopez said the POC marketing arm will be headed by Tats Suzara, who worked with the PSC for many years before taking on similar marketing roles in other abroad.

The POC reportedly earmarked P50 million for the Olympic campaign this July, but Lopez, in a separate interview, said it will be used by the athletes for their training and equipments.

"PSC chair Richie Garcia was in attendance in that Wednesday meeting [presided over by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco] when we told him of our plan to create a POC marketing arm for the purpose of generating funds to send our national contingent to London," Lopez said.

Lopez, who is also the POC vice president, earlier said the cost of sending a single athlete to London is about P350,000. The organizers, according to the former boxing chief, will shoulder the board and lodging in London.

## Hurting Patrombon bows out

MANDALUYONG City — Another tournament, Jason Patrombon joined his teammate Mark Alcantara, 3-6, 2-6, Thursday in the singles quarterfinals of the Seoul Futures F2 in Cebu.

Patrombon, who survived three-hour battles in the most exciting in the tournament, was completely done physically after his 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 win over Dashiman Rehfeldt the Davis Wednesday.

"I was worried because for Jason to be able to execute his strategy, he needs his legs and feet speed to counter the power and strength of his bigger and taller opponents," said coach Manny Mabe.

More Anthony Reyes

# Rafa, Roger nail last 16 berths

ROGER Federer celebrates after winning the first set against Ivo Karlovic in Friday's third round of the Australian Open.

MELBOURNE—In the same build of a Grand Slam singles draw for the first time since 2005, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are taking similar paths to a potential semifinal matchup at the Australian Open. On the women's side, defending champion Kim Clijsters played there in the fourth round.

Neither the four-time Australian champion Federer nor 2009 titleholder Nadal have dropped a set, although Federer's path has been made easier by a walkover win in the second round.

The longtime rivals played back-to-back matches at Rod Laver Arena on Friday night, the eight boys still roped from a runner-up finish at the Hopman Cup. Federer followed in the marquee matchup program by beating Ivo Karlovic 7-6 (6), 7-5, 6-3, saving a set point in the tiebreaker with a serve-and-volley lob over the 6-foot-10 Croatian.

"He gave me a second serve and gave me a slight chance," Federer said. "Slight have had a little bit of a lucky volley."

Nadal will next meet fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, who beat No. 15 John Isner, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1, to put the last US man out of the draw.

It is the first time since the start of the Open era in 1968 that no American men have reached the fourth round at the Australian Open.

Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki also has not dropped a set to advancing to the fourth round. She beat Monica Niculescu of Romania, 6-2, 6-3, Friday, and third-seeded Victoria Azarenka defeated Mona Barthel, 6-2, 6-4.

Clijsters advanced to the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Daniela Hantuchova.

No. 7 Tomas Berdych beat No. 30 Kevin Anderson of South Africa 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 6-1 and will next play No. 31 Nicolas Almagro of Spain, who beat 2 in seeded Frenchman Wawrinka of Switzerland 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-4.

Defending champion and top-seeded Novak Djokovic and fourth-seeded Andy Murray, who lost to the final in Melbourne Park the last two years, play their third round matches Saturday. AP

# Ravena heads college hoops awardees

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO'S rookie sensation Kiefer Ravena leads the 'All' honorees as varsity stars gathered at 7 tonight for the Collegiate Basketball Awards presented by the UAAP/NCAA Press Corps and Smart as the Gateway Suites in Cubao, Quezon City.

Cited for his achievements on and off the court, Ravena—who will receive the Smart MVP plaque—joins four teammates who will be honored with individual awards for helping power the Blue Eagles to a fourth straight UAAP championship.

Ian Bada, winner of five NCAA titles in six seasons, will share the spotlight on Dar-ren Lauren (Mythical Team), Jhun Mbandu (Mythical Player) and Franklin Lim (NCAA Coach of the Year) also tagged citations.

Former mentor Norman Black will pick up his fourth UAAP Coach of the Year plaque while his mates Greg Slaughter (Collegiate Mythical Team), Nico Salva (Mythical Player), Emman Monfort (Mayenfil Super Senior) and Rich Long (Defensive Stopper) will also get recognized.

Among Ravena, Slaughter and Lauren in the elite Collegiate Mythical Team are reigning NCAA MVP Calvin Abueva of San Sebastian and UAAP MVP Bobby Ray Parks of National University.

For Stanley University's 6'8 Garen (Game Crowned) and Akinola Ramon (Defensive), Jun Sandoval's Perpetual Help (Impact Player) and Ian Sangalang (Mr. Efficiency), and Lemuel's Kevin Alas (Energy Player) round up the individual winners.

Ian Sebastian will also receive a Citation for Excellence after emerging as the first NCAA team to rule the Philippine Collegiate Championships.

Likewise getting a special recognition is University of Perpetual Help's pensioner Anthony Tamayo in the event supported by San Miguel Corp., Asiaworx Mineral Drinks, Maynilad, Gatorade, Asori, 2SVL, UNAP Season 74 host Ateneo and NCAA Season 87 host Perpetual Help.

RAVENA... Smart MVP award

# Barbosa, Gomez stay on top after a draw

FILIPINO GMs Oliver Barbosa (left) and John Paul Gomez ponder on their next moves during their seventh round match.

FILIPINO grandmasters Oliver Barbosa and John Paul Gomez agreed to a silent draw in the seventh round Friday to remain in the lead in the 30th Pamesarik International Open Chess Tournament at the Ludlow Castle Sports and Recreation Club in Baguio City.

Barbosa and Gomez showed the way with 6.5 points apiece, half a point clear of Filipino GM Mark Paragua, who whipped China's Zong Changdong, and four other players.

Barbosa improved to 6.0 points, the same output of GMs Andrei Deviatkin and Evgeny Gleizerov of Russia, and International Masters Jan Gebauhin and K. Ratheakumar of India.

The Fourth Filipino in the contingent, GM Richard Bitoon, split the point with Prince Rajaj of India in a four-hour game in 4.5 points.

In the eighth round, Barbosa will battle Deviatkin, Bitoon clashes with Paragua, and Bitoon goes up against Ratheakumar of India.

"The draws is fine, and that gave both John Paul and Oliver strong chances for the title," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines vice-president for Pampers "Butch" Pelaez Jr.

# UFL: Nomads target 2nd win vs Navy XI

By Cedelf P. Tupas

WOMEN Aurora Manila goes for the top spot when it hosts the Navy Red Jolts today in the United Football League first division at the University of Makati field.

Victory in the 2 p.m. match will give last year's second division champions a perfect record in their first two games, allowing them to move ahead of opening-day victors Loyola Meralco, Army Black and Stallion.

Host-handed Global and newly promoted Pasargad try to bounce back from opening-day losses when they collide at 4 p.m.

Nomads are hoping to ride the momentum of their narrow 3-2 victory over Pasargad in their first division debut last Sunday.

But while there were encouraging signs like the returning Dutton Hartmann scoring his first goal for the Nomads, Navy has become tougher with the absence of attacking midfielder Steve Borell, who was adjudged best player of the second division last season.

Coach Jay Gonzaga said the game-winning goal from a Hartmann assist against Pasargad, after Manners spooned the scoring with a curling free kick.

Global will be without Fil-Spanish midfielder Angel Guirado, who drowned a red card in the 1-2 loss to Army.

# POC needs leadership with direction

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE POC election is held every Olympic year.

London will play host to the Olympic Games from July 27 to Aug. 12, just like it did when it staged the summer sports spectacle in 1947 to celebrate the end of World War II.

Recently, Jack Enrile ignored Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's request that incumbent Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco was seeking another term—his third in a row since becoming the country's amateur sports czar in 2004.

"To be," Senator's retort, "no opposition has come forward to challenge Cojuangco's bid for another four-year term. Cojuangco currently occupies his post by two years now former shooting chief set Mangagal during the 2008 POC elections."

Being an avid of President Aquino, the 70-year-old Cojuangco is a formidable candidate with his powers there and influence in both the private and public sectors.

This is no label for the POC head, but who will dare fight/challenge the country's top Olympic guy? None will, is there anyone else?

Poised and polished in the same time, Cojuangco's administration was a solidly based record-setting one of sporting highs and lows.

The Philippines won several championship in the Southeast Asian Games for the first time in 2005, when Manila hosted the SEA Games. However, the Philippines suffered a shocking setback, dropping to a lowly sixth place in last year's 26th SEA Games in Jakarta, its worst finish since 1977.

Also under Cojuangco, Filipino athletes won a two gold medals in 2006 and 2010 Asian Games, but they returned home without winning a single Olympic medal from the 2004 Games in Athens and in 2008 in Beijing.

It is also disadvantageous for the former he is a two-time politician being a former congressman from Tarlac and brother of the late former President Corazon Aquino, mother of President Noy.

* * *

"It's time we abandon our colonial mentality that imported tactic, especially those coming from the United States, and the former that our locally bred ones," once said sportswoman-cum-boxer-Bea Bolivar.

A former ambassador at the Kuwaiti Post, the soft-spoken Senator is doing well in the 2013 World Student 8-Ball Championship at the Senate Session Complex.

A retired serviceman in cockfighting in 2003, he emerged surprise secretary with veteran Matt Binggo during that year's World Student Cup-2 by defeating his former sparring partner-in-the Lam Sam, Senator shared the WSC-3 championship with Boy Cruz and former Senate governor Ito Teneza and Bibit Bryan.

In this year's kickoff leg, Senators is on track to winning the crown over the star-studded field that includes Bryan's chairperson and old mates Boy Alexander of Alabama, Mike Sherman of Hawaii and Louisiana's Gilbert Lobpan and Richard Escoto, among others.

The last time a foreigner in a 08-Am cup-turned the World Harbour Cup was in January 2009 when the MBC Group boss Chicago, made up of footballers Andrew Boly Gabon, Rudel Gonzales and Jorge Torres, reigned supreme.

Enrile's tenure have been dominating the international derby scene here in the past seven years.

# World Slasher Cup Group A finals today

TWO-TIME champion Ilay Bernier and RAE Reyes will bounce the cast of Group A finalists in the World Slasher Cup at the Great Eastern Country Club in Antipolo City.

Bernier against Spaniards Palmeras and Spaniards Lopez scored 4 votes and 3 points, respectively, in the semifinals. He goes for his third crown to overcome when all underdressed bets collide.

Reyes, 2007 WSC title champion William Ong of Dumaguete and dozen other WSC runner-up Benny Sandoval are the other Group A standouts.

Hosted by the Pinakamot of Antipolo Country, the POC is co-sponsored by Thunderbird Sunscreen and Thunderbird Gatorade Mini and Energy.

GROUP A FINAL 4 PLAYERS: Lawrence Warmsley with Ong, Caesar of the Leicester by Manchester, Jong Villanueva, Andrea Bernier, Mac-Jong & Dante Palmeras, Mike Ramos, Rustin Bernier, Jonathan Bernier, Jay Reyes, Jay Sandoval & Cristobal. 4 & PROMOTED: Lawrence Warmsley with Ong, Caesar of the Leicester by Manchester, Jong Villanueva, Andrea Bernier, Mac-Jong & Dante Palmeras, Mike Ramos, Rustin Bernier, Jonathan Bernier, Jay Reyes, Jay Sandoval & Cristobal.

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# Charges vs Sotto, car buyer dropped

## 'Repetition of initial complaints'

By John M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City Prosecutor's Office has affirmed its ruling junking the estafa charges Sen. Vicente Sotto III filed against a buyer of his luxury car, as well as the countercharges the man filed against him.

City prosecutor Donald Lee denied the appeals of both the senator and that of Elvis Roger Alipayen, saying he was not convinced with their arguments.

Lee said the motions for reconsideration of the two parties were mere repetition of their initial complaints against each other.

"We find nothing therein that would warrant the reconsideration, let alone the reversal of our earlier findings," part of the ruling read.

The resolution was dated Sept. 6, 2011 but was only released to media this week.

The legal tussle stemmed from an unofficial issue filed against Alipayen, who wanted to buy the senator's BMW in 2010.

Alipayen countered by filing perjury and libel charges against the senator, who reportedly made libelous statements against him in a newsletter abroad.

In August last year, Assistant City Prosecutor Ferdinand Bayton cleared Sotto of the two charges.

He also dismissed the estafa charges lodged against Alipayen despite the businessman's failure to attend a preliminary investigation.

This led both parties to file separate motions for reconsideration, arguing that Bayton erred in not finding probable cause in the charges they filed against each other.

"It bears stressing that the motions, although worded differently, are facsimiles of the parties' allegations in their respective pleadings," the city prosecutor said.

Lee affirmed Bayton's findings that Sotto could not have committed libel in uttering statements pertaining to Alipayen in a committee show, as the latter failed to prove malice in the statements.

The city prosecutor also agreed with Bayton that there was no estafa committed by Alipayen, given the factual circumstances of the case.

## Shoot-to-kill order issued for cop in Binondo robbery

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A SHOOT-TO-KILL order has been issued against a policeman charged with staging a robbery last week where a Chinese woman was killed and two of her kin were wounded.

The order was issued by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim in case PO1 Ernesto Binayug Jr., who has been tagged as "armed and dangerous," would resist arrest.

Binayug, who has credit heavy in the service for two years and was assigned at the National Capital Region Police Office Regional Police Safety Battalion, is a cousin of former MPD Ermita/Intramuros police station community precinct commander Insp. Joselito Binayug.

Ernesto Binayug and three other men were identified as the motorcycle-riding robbers who allegedly tried to rob businesswoman Heidi Hsu in Binondo on Jan. 11.

His wife died, while her younger brother Herbert and 65-year-old father Tony were wounded when they came to her aid.

The policeman was identified after he was seen in a closed circuit television camera footage of the group's flight from the crime scene.

He is also a suspect in the robbery at the Hsu family's cousin wholesale and retail store in November last year.

"We are asking him to surrender as promised by his mother, but he has not surrendered since Thursday," Lim told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

Tracker teams that have fanned out to different areas looking for the suspect said Binayup had not been going home and no longer reports for duty.

Apart from Binayug, Lim included his three alleged cohorts in his "shoot-to-kill order," in case of armed resistance.

Two of them remain unidentified while the other was identified only through his alias "Mic."

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# Teenage first responders come to the rescue in distressed QC communities

By Julie M. Aurelio

MARIE Joyce Ann Santos realizes wherever she results have she was able to help a man who had one drink too many eliminate his urge that got stuck in a tenyear canal while trying to move to his destroyer.

The 13-year old student of North Fairview High School knew that getting him out of the predicament was a challenge, even though she was already a trained junior rescuer.

Although she knew what to do, Santos said she hesitated about coming to his rescue.

"I asked my father to call the local number not to move him until the responders come because it would be too dangerous. After all, they may not listen to a kid like me," she said.

Fortunately, he was arrived on the scene and freed the man.

Santos is just one of 2,941 students who underwent a seminar for junior rescuers given to students of Quezon City's public schools.

A prospect of the city government's Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS), the teenaged rescuers who were taught how to give first aid and respond to calamities such as earthquakes, fires and floods, were trained to be first responders to emergencies in their communities.

It's better to be prepared than to be caught off guard, like during the floods brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009, DPOS chief Elmo Isio Diego said.

"Our communities need a better disaster management program. They can become first responders instead of waiting for rescue teams to come to them," he said.

The idea of training junior responders and their counterparts among barangay watchmen is also in the aftermath of Ondoy, when floods submerged most of Marikina without warning.

DPOS rescuers were unable to respond to calls for help from Barangay San Mateo, only a few kilometers away from Quezon City Hall.

In late 2011, the city government pushed through with its plan to train students in basic first aid and disaster response skills.

"They are the first ones on the scene because they are residents of these communities themselves. They can also alert us to emergencies faster," San Diego said.

As for students from 33 public schools now attending the seminar, which includes training in first aid, standard responses during earthquakes, landslides, floods and fires and simple extraction of a victim from a difficult situation.

Junior rescuers who have completed the program will act as the DPOS's "eyes and ears," mobilizing out for emergencies, as well as acting as first responders in time of disasters.

"What they know is very basic, but we hope that with the elementary knowledge, they can be of better service to their communities," San Diego added.

Noel Lazcano, a special operations officer who supervised the training, said 60 other courses are conducted every year and plans to make ours that the graduates maintain the skills they have learned.

He stressed, however, that the students are dissuaded from carrying out perilous water rescue operations during flashfloods and other similar situations.

"We don't want them to do something so dangerous as that. We don't want the junior responders to become victims themselves. We want them to be our partners," Lazcano said.

Santos was the case of Imelda, who almost the DPOS to the emergency in her neighborhood in September to Sept. 18, 2011.

The teenager was tending to her parents's sari-sari (variety) store that evening when she saw a drunken man throw up, and in the process, accidentally spit out his destroyer into a cynical.

"The man tried to reach for his destroyer but his arm got stuck, so he just laid there while people milled around him," the high school student said, recalling that neighbors tried to help calm the man with soup but finished to no avail.

After she visited the DPOS, paramedics arrived five minutes later to pull out the victim, still drunk but with his destroyer now firmly in his grip.

Marie Anne Mercedes, father of a classmate, said learning how to do rudimentary resuscitation and carrying a victim the right way comes in handy when the need arises.

Santos, for her part, expressed willingness not just to aid the part of a journey, but to teach others how to be a lifesaver as well.

"At a young age, we can be of service if a calamity arises. And we can share our knowledge with our classmates too," she said.

JUNIOR rescuers are taught how to give first aid and how to respond to calamities like earthquakes, floods, fires and other emergencies in their respective communities. LEONARDO UY

# *Billboard dismantling stopped*

By Mike Morales

A PASAY City judge has issued an injunction against the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) stopping the agency from dismantling a billboard in Quezon City.

Per MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino, questioned the order, which included all 119 billboards owned by Pure Corp., saying their initial petition covers only two billboards the company put up in Quezon City.

"We will exhaust all legal means to ensure that billboards conform to well-accepted standards on size, distance and structural integrity even as we strive to preserve the environment," Tolentino said.

He added that he was contemplating whether to bring administrative charges against Judge Divina Garcia Lopez Pelaez after she expanded the injunction to all billboards operated by Eric Corp., through United Sierra Sign and Services.

The injunction, dated Jan. 12, stemmed from an incident last year when the MMDA brought down the company's billboard at UP Diliman Fluorescent along Edsa in Quezon City.

MMDA legal counsel Rochelle Macapili-Uba said the agency's action was based on an order by the Quezon City government's building official to tear down the billboard after learning it did not have a building permit.

# I don't gloat over somebody's misfortune

"MMDA is to be as respectful as a Gaddafi (Are you happy you had Gaddafi kicked out?)" and a scion of the other mad of any evil phone whose number didn't register.

The guy hung up before I could answer.

He was referring to the dismissal of Director Magnaguad Candida of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) over the Noriyo-Ohara kidnapping issue.

This columnist opposed the kidnapping-for-ransom by the NBI of a Japanese woman whose stay in the country is not documented at the bureau of immigration.

The question or statement was grossly unfair because, first, I don't gloat over somebody else's misfortune.

I have learned enough spiritually to know that whatever one wishes upon his neighbor comes back to him—multiplied.

That's the Law of Karma.

Second, it was never my intention to destroy the reputation of Candida who had a spotless record when he was with the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Gaddafi's fault was in interfering with his subordinates at the NBI.

There was nothing personal between me and Candida other than a friend to me and my brothers Jim, Raffy and Erwin.

Gaddafi always accommodated requests from this column/public service since last and my brothers in helping seek justice for the oppressed when he was with the Quezon City Police District, and then with the NBI.

* * *

Let me remind and reassure my readers that in criticizing people in this column, there is nothing personal between me and the object of criticism.

Professor Garg, I'm just doing my job as a journalist.

* * *

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Complimentary fan Miguel Corp. (MIC) is releasing P500 million to build houses for victims of Typhoon Sendong ("Sendong," ").

MIC and like-minded firms call such charity work as "corporate social responsibility."

In my language, half a billion pesos for charity is huge.

But as any believer in tithing...arming aside 10 percent of one's gross earnings for charity...will tell you, giving to your neighbor in need pays huge dividends.

Individuals and entities that give more money to the needy because rather instead of poorer.

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# Much of Asia expects birth jump in Year of the Dragon

TAIPEI—Taiwan has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, but you wouldn't know that from visiting the obstetrics department at Taipei Adventist Hospital. The hallways were almost empty last week, but pregnant women lined up for ultrasound checks and other appointments with obstetricians.

It's not just a baby boom; it's a dragon baby boom.

The Year of the Dragon begins on Monday, and the Chinese believe that babies born in the fourth year of the 12-year Zodiac cycle are gifted with prodigious quantities of luck and strength. In extreme times, the dragon was a symbol reserved for the Chinese emperor, and it is considered to be an extremely auspicious sign.

"We haven't had a iconic like this in years," said hospital official Hung Yi-chi-hsu.

A second child had not been in the plans for Austin Tseng, a 33-year-old office worker, but she said on the hospital in downtown Taipei that she is eagerly awaiting the birth.

"I had thought one child was enough, but then comes the Year of the Dragon and I'm happy to have another one," Tseng said after an ultrasound check on her 23-month-old fetus.

Officials expect a baby boom not only in China and Taiwan, but in other Asian countries and territories that observe the New Year festival, including Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Macau.

Most have extremely low birth rates, reflecting a preference among young couples in these prosperous or rapidly developing societies to choose quality of life and career advancement over the responsibilities of child-rearing.

But this Year of the Dragon seems to be bucking the trend. A poll in Hong Kong showed that 79 percent of couples there wanted children born under the dragon sign, while South Korea, Vietnam and China all report similar enthusiasm about diving in to the childrearing.

In Taiwan, Year of the Dragon childbearing fever is in full swing, with local banks selling silver and gold coins engraved with the dragon's symbol. Bank officials believe that many are buying them for their soon-to-be born dragon year babies as for those of supporting friends and relatives.

In the past, "many women resisted to keep their quality of life and thought child-rearing was too much of a burden to bear," said Wu Meng-ling, an interior ministry official charged with childcare. "But with people all around them talking about having dragon sons and daughters, they are suddenly caught up in the baby craze."

The Year of the Dragon's coming is a godsend for Taiwan's cash-strapped, who for the past decade have been trying to increase the island's low fertility rate: less than one child for every Taiwanese woman of childbearing age in 2000.

Taiwan has tried to encourage families with cash incentives that adults until recommend, appears to do little to deter the cost of education and other child-rearing outlays. Besides a $1,000 monthly children stipend, a Taiwanese woman can receive $1,000 from the government for delivering her first baby, double that for the second and triple for the third.

Interior Minister Chiang Yi-hsien thinks that government encouragement can help boost the birthrate to 1.5 babies per female woman—not only in the Year of the Dragon, but well beyond.

"Counting on the heel of the economy, the Year of the Dragon may encourage newlyweds to have babies soon," Wu said.

Chu Hong-yen, a 30-year-old accountant, is five months pregnant and eagerly awaiting a dragon daughter to bump her 2-year-old son company.

But she also worries the incipient baby boom means her yet-to-be-born daughter will have tougher competition than usual. AP

# Iran warns neighbors vs 'dangerous' stance

NIKOSIA—Iran's foreign minister warned neighboring states not to put themselves in the "dangerous position" by aligning themselves too closely with the United States in the escalating dispute over Tehran's nuclear activity.

Confrontation is brewing over Tehran's nuclear work, which Washington and other powers say is a cover for developing nuclear weapons. Iran denies the accusation.

Iran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, used for a third of the world's seaborne oil trade, if pending Western moves to ban Iranian crude exports cripple its lifeblood energy sector, banning fears of a wide Iran-wider Middle East war.

European Union foreign ministers are expected at a meeting on Monday to agree to an oil embargo against Iran and a freeze on the assets of its central bank, Portugal's Foreign Minister Rui Jorge said, confirming diplomatic leaks.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, riled Iran earlier this week when it said it could swiftly raise oil output for key consumers if needed, a scenario that could transpire if tensions over the nuclear oil standoff have not been made public.

The White House has refused to comment on the letter.

"Mr. Obama sent a letter to Iranian officials, but America has to make clear that it has good intentions and should express that it's ready for talks without conditions," he said.

Tehran has also open they show their readiness behind-the-curtain they plead to as in sit down and talk. America has to pursue a safe and honest strategy so we can get the notion that America this time is serious and ready."

The United States, like other Western countries, says it is prepared to talk to Iran but only if Tehran agrees to discuss halting its enrichment of uranium. Western officials say Iran has been asking for talks "without conditions" as a stalling move while refusing to put its nuclear program on the table.

The International Atomic Energy Agency chief said it was his duty to alert the world about possible military aspects to Iran's nuclear campaign, keeping the front on Tehran ahead of a new visit by senior IAEA officials for talks on Jan. 29-31. Reuters

# Killings in Syria persist

BEIRUT—Syrian forces have encamped from a rebel-held town under a local cease-fire, residents said, but deadly violence raged elsewhere as a monthslong mandate for Arab League peace monitors in Syria was expiring.

The head of the monitoring mission said meeting conclusion part-and-would not arrive at the League's Cairo headquarters until Saturday the day before Arab foreign ministers are due to weigh their next move on Syria, a League source said.

Twenty people, including two Iraqi officials, were injured killed across Syria on Thursday, adding to a death toll of more than 600 since the Arab League observers arrived.

An armed insurgency is taking hold in some areas, battering what began 10 months ago as a mostly peaceful struggle against President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian rule.

Residents of Zabadani and on Thursday troops and tanks had pulled back after a deal to end days of fighting, according to an opposition leader. Reuters

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Aid workers kidnapped in Pakistan

MULTAN—Masked gunmen kidnapped a German aid worker and his Italian colleague overnight in Pakistan's central stronghold of Multan, police said on Friday. The kidnappings bring to six the number of Westerners abducted since July in roadside ambushes around Pakistan, where US forces last year killed Osama bin Laden and which stands on the front-line of a Taliban insurgency. "Three gunmen barged into a house and abducted an Italian and a German national at gunpoint on Thursday evening," Multan city police officer Asma Zulfiqar Khan told AFP by telephone. "The two men were working for a foreign non-governmental organization." Police said the number and identity of the kidnappers was unclear. A local security official told AFP that the kidnappers pistol-whipped a private security guard, then snatched the aid workers, but left behind a Western woman in the house that the group rented. There was no claim of responsibility for the abductions. AFP

### 6 Nato troops die in copter crash

KANDAHAR—A Nato helicopter has crashed in southern Afghanistan, killing six members of the international military force, the US-led coalition said on Friday. It could not immediately say that there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of Thursday's crash. The cause of the month's still being investigated. The coalition did not disclose the nationalities of those killed. The helicopter crash occurred on the same day that a suicide car bomber killed at least seven civilians outside a crowded gate at Kandahar Air Field, a sprawling base for US and Nato operations in the south. The Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility, saying they were targeting a Nato convoy. It was the second suicide bombing to occur in daytime in Afghanistan in two days, officials said. The coalition said no Nato troops were killed on Thursday. It does not disclose information about wounded troops. AP

### Senior al-Qaida figure killed in drone strike

WASHINGTON—A militant who acted as a senior operations organizer for al-Qaeda was targeted and killed in one of two US drone strikes launched against targets inside Pakistan last week, a US official said. US and Pakistani officials have said before that the target of the attack was Aslam Awan, a Pakistani national from Abbottabad, the same town where Osama bin Laden was killed last May by a US commando team. They said he was targeted in a strike by a US-operated drone on Jan. 10 intended at what news reports said was a compound near the town of Mirzakhah in the border province of North Waziristan. The sources described Awan, who also was known by the nom-de-guerre Abdullah Ghazwani, as a significant figure in the mounting cadre leadership of al-Qaeda, which US officials say has been greatly reduced by the drone campaign. Pakistani officials could not confirm that Awan was killed in the drone attack, but the US official said he was. One of the sources described Awan as an associate of al-Qaeda's current chief of external operations, whose identity is known to intelligence officials but not to the general public. Reuters

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
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|---|---|---|
| "ELECTECH SYSTEMS FARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC." Building P, 2nd Corporate Office, Mckinley Road, Fort Corporate Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City | Quirino Hazel Gonzales American | VP, Technology Management and Operations |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Zhaiya Zhao Chinese | Customer Service |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Yijin Bao Chinese | Mandarin Language Service |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Weipeng Huang Chinese | Mandarin Language Service |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Jia Xia Chinese | Mandarin Language Service |
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| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Jiaodong Fan Chinese | Customer Service |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Qian Wei Chinese | Chinese Language Service Officer |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Hongying Yu Chinese | Chinese Language Service Officer |
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| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Yubin Zhao Chinese | IT Engineer |
| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Yinghui Li Chinese | Business Development Officer |
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| COWRIN INTERNATIONAL INC. 2/F ROBC Plaza, Hydrogen Tower, Ayala cor. 28 Pupil Ave., Makati City | Yang Qiao Chinese | IT Engineer |
| DYSON INC. 21 UP & Ramon Bldg., 109 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Jung Eun Choi Korean | Customer Relations Manager |
| HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F ROBC cor Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Shaopan Wang Chinese | Project Manager |
| HWA-SKY ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER INC. #8 KAPAYAPA Bldg., Maningal Business Park Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City | Mi Hee Kang Korean | General Manager |
| ROCKY GROUP OF COMPANIES PHILS. CORP. 1001 Quirino Ave., Tambo, Paranaque City | Andrew Phan Chinese | Marketing Manager |
| YM PHONE MAN CO. Unit 1102 Valenz Centre, Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City | Wallkwan Lee Korean | General Manager |
| VICTORY MERCHANDISING & DISTRIBUTION GROUP INC. 19 I Sabado Dr., Legaspi Village, 28 Unit 02 to 03 A of Cruz Bldg., Makati City | A.M. Mostafizur Rahaman Bangladeshi | Executive Vice President |
| CHUANGTING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES Unit 1501 Floor 4 the Orient Square, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City | Cui Bin Chinese | Call Agent |
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| BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City | Li Wang Chinese | Marketing Executive (multilingual) |

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ARMANDO S. ARANETA
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INVITATION TO BID

The Senate Committee on Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Chairman, invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit the following project:

| Name of Project/Brief Description | Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of a Access Control System and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras for the Refurbished Administration Office Building of PEZA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone and Related Local Agreement. Lot 1 – Subic Branch Lot 2 – Clark Branch Lot 3 – Cebu Branch |
|---|---|
| Approved Budget for the Contract(s) | Lot 1 – P10,000,000.00<br>Lot 2 – P10,000,000.00<br>Lot 3 – P10,000,000.00 |
| Completion Period | Twenty (20) calendar days from date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed by the Security, Investigation and Transport Department (SITD) Office and the concerned ARCC Site (5 working days after receipt of a copy of the executed contract) |

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar project/contract executed in a municipality or city of the same or higher category level as the project for which they intend to bid, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. For purposes of this Invitation to Bid, "similar" shall refer to the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Access Control System and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Technical and Financial Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is hereby set forth:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 1 February 2013 (Friday) 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM and 7 February 2013 (Thursday) 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. only) |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | 11 February 2013, 9:00 A.M. Room 318, 3rd Floor, Pre-Bidding Building G. Mabini corner P. Guevarra St., Subic, Zambales |
| 3. Deadline for Submission of Bids | 14 February 2013, 9:00 A.M. |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | Three working days after the deadline for submission of bids |
| 5. Post-qualification | Within fifteen (15) calendar days |
| 6. Notice of Award | Within seven (7) calendar days |

The PEZA Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now the Committee) now the authority of the Philippine Government (National Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the PEZA website (www.peza.gov.ph). The complete set of Bid Pre-Bidding Documentation may be purchased from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 payable to Subic Bay Freeport Zone, and presented to it acknowledgement receipt of P5,000.00 for Lot 1, P5,000.00 for Lot 2 and P5,000.00 for Lot 3.

Only bidders who have purchased the bidding documents shall be allowed to submit bids or submit written queries or clarifications.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to the bidder with the lowest bid in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to waive any formality in the conduct of the bidding process.

Atty. ANTONIO A. ARANETA
Chairman

# The WORLD

Criss Lorenne B. Greco

# US shuts down file-sharing site

## Founder of HK-based Megaupload.com arrested

WASHINGTON—US authorities shut down one of the world's largest file-sharing sites on Thursday and charged seven people with copyright crimes, prompting hackers to disable the FBI and Justice Department's websites.

Megaupload.com were offline as Justice officials and the Federal Bureau of Investigation laid out the details of what they described as "among the largest criminal copyright cases ever brought by the United States."

The founder of the Hong Kong-based Megaupload site was among four people arrested for online piracy and crimes that justice officials said had illegally moved more than $175 million of dollars from subscriptions and advertising revenues.

The site is popular with Hollywood celebrities and has been endorsed by music icons such as Kanye West. It was also reported on Thursday that Swizz Beatz, a music producer married to the singer Alicia Keys, was in chief executive.

Swizz, whose real name is Kasseem Dean, was not named in the indictment.

The announcement of the indictment came one day after Wikipedia, Google and other websites staged a protest against congressional legislation intended to crack down on online piracy.

Attempts to access the FBI, Justice Department, Universal Music, and Recording Industry Association of America portals failed, following retaliatory action by the "hacktivist" hacktivist group.

Anonymous announced that they had downed the sites.

"The Internet is here. Are you ready for The War of Cyber War? We are. Rise up and join us to fight for your rights," YouAnonNews, an Anonymous-aligned group, said in a tweet.

In a statement, the Justice Department and FBI said the seven people charged were "responsible for massive worldwide online piracy of numerous types of copyrighted works, through Megaupload.com and other related sites."

They generated more than $175 million in criminal proceeds and caused "more than half a billion dollars in harm to copyright owners," the statement said, by offering pirated copies of movies, TV programs and other content.

Prosecutors said the sites "induced millions of Internet users worldwide to access the Mega conspiracy Internet sites," and then rewarded them for uploading popular copyrighted works that were downloaded by other users.

Prosecutors said the sites "induced millions of Internet users worldwide to access the Mega conspiracy Internet sites," and then rewarded them for uploading popular copyrighted works that were downloaded by other users.

Megaupload Ltd. and another company, Vestor Ltd., were indicted by a grand jury in Virginia and charged with racketeering conspiracy, various copyright infringement counts and conspiring to commit money laundering.

Among those indicted was Megaupload founder and sole shareholder of Beirut, Kim Dotcom, 37, a resident of Hong Kong and New Zealand who is also known as Kim Schmitz and Kim Tim Jim Vestor.

The others charged are Finn Batato, 38, of Germany; Julius Bencko, 33, of Slovakia; Sven Echternach, 39, of Germany; Mathias Ortmann, 40, of Germany; Andrus Nomm, 32, of Estonia; and Bram van der Kolk, 29, of the Netherlands. AFP

**MAKE FINDS** A Hitler's Crested Langur sits on a tree branch in Wehea forest in eastern Borneo, Indonesia. The large, gray monkey was believed by many to be extinct. AFP

# Rare monkey discovered in Indonesia

JAKARTA—Scientists working in the dense jungles of Indonesia have "rediscovered" a large, gray monkey in rare it was believed by many to be extinct.

They were all the more baffled to find the Hillier's Crested Langur—its black face framed by a fluffy, bright-white ruff of fur—in an area well outside its previously recorded home range.

The team set up camera traps in the Wehea Forest on the eastern tip of Borneo island in Asia, hoping to capture images of clouded leopards, orangutans and other wildlife known to congregate at natural mineral salt licks.

The pictures they came back sought them all by surprise: groups of monkeys none had ever seen.

With virtually no photographs of the grizzled langurs in existence, it at first was a challenge to confirm their suspicions, said Sterci Lokier, a PhD student at Simon Fraser University in Canada, and one of the lead researchers.

The only images out there were museum sketches.

"We were all pretty ecstatic, the first day, actually, this monkey still lives, and also that it's in Wehea," said Lokier.

The monkey, which has hooded eyes and a pinkish nose and lips, once roamed the northeastern part of Borneo, as well as the islands of Sumatra and Java and the Thai-Malay peninsula. But concerns arose raised several years ago that they may be extinct.

Forests where the monkeys once lived had been destroyed by fires, human encroachment and conversion of land for agriculture and mining and an extensive field survey in 2005 turned up empty.

"For me, the discovery of this monkey is representative of so many species in Indonesia," Lokier told The Associated Press by telephone.

The next step will be returning to the 38,000-hectare forest to try to find out how many grizzly langurs there are, according to the team of local and international scientists, who published their findings in the American Journal of Primatology on Friday.

They appear in more than 4,000 images captured over a two-month period, said Lokier, but it's possible one or two families large were missing.

"We are trying to find out all we can," he said. "But it really feels like a race against time." AP

**H LHUILLIER PHILIPPINES** led a large chunk of the sea to the promenading scene of this year's Sinulog Float Parade 2012 sited along Juan Avenue. With a life like design, a dash of popping colors and not to mention its very own mermaid couple, surfed its way to the **SECOND PLACE**. To learn more about the nation's leading non-bank financial services company's other parade participation do log on to www.rsfbcities.com

# Cruise rescue suspended

GIGLIO, ITALY—The rust wreck of the cruise ship Costa Concordia shifted on the underwater ledge supporting it on Friday, forcing a new suspension in rescue work and threatening plans to pump all out of the vessel to prevent a possible environmental disaster.

Firefighters' spokesperson Luca Cari said the rescue agents would be discussing the next step after the movement made conditions unsafe for the divers already hampered by poor visibility. Floating objects and underwater debris.

Seven days after the 114,500-ton ship capsized off the Tuscan coast, hopes of finding anyone alive have all but disappeared and the cold waters around the ship have become rougher with worse weather expected in the weekend.

Attention is now turning to how to remove more than 2,300 tons of fuel aboard the vessel, which lies on its side on a rock shelf in about 28 meters of water off the Italian island of Giglio and which could slide off its resting place.

Salvage crews have been forced to stop by the search for survivors and bodies and only after that search is called off can they begin pumping the fuel out of the vessel, a process expected to take at least two weeks.

Environment Minister Corrado Clini told parliament on Thursday that he had instructed the firm's operator, Costa Crociere, to take all possible measures to anchor the ship to prevent it from slipping further into the sea.

"If the ship slides, we hope that it doesn't break into pieces and that the fuel tanks do not open up," he said.

Clini said there was a risk that the ship could slide to 50 or 60 meters below the rock ledge on which it is caught, creating a major hazard to the environment in one of Europe's largest natural marine parks. Reuters

# Election fever grips Burma

BANGKOK—With the fighting peacock flag flying recently, rising Suu Kyi's Rangoon (Yangon) party bandspartners are once again a hive of activity as her Burma (Myanmar) opposition prepares for its first poll bustle in two decades.

The excited crowds that gathered around the democracy icon this week as she registered her candidacy for April 1 by-elections testified to the new energy gripping Burma's politics after almost half a century of military rule.

Suu Kyi, who spent much of the past two decades in detention, has already registered to run for a lower house seat in a rural constituency near Rangoon.

Her National League for Democracy (NLD) party boycotted a 2010 election that swept the Army's allies to power, saying the rules were unfair.

"Am I looking forward to it? I am not sure. I think of it as anything other than hard work. But I am not afraid of hard work," she said at a recent press conference.

Burma's regime has surprised even critics with a series of reforms including dialogue with the opposition, the release of hundreds of political prisoners and peace talks with armed ethnic minority rebels. AFP

# Perry drops out of US race

NORTH CHARLESTON, South Carolina—Texas Gov. Rick Perry brought down the curtain on Thursday on his gaffe-plagued US presidential campaign and endorsed Newt Gingrich for the Republican nomination.

With Gingrich closing in from frontrunner Mitt Romney ahead of the all-important South Carolina primary, Perry's departure could leave a big imprint on the race to find an eventual nominee to face President Barack Obama in November.

"I have come to the conclusion that there is no viable path forward for me in this 2012 campaign. Therefore, today, I am suspending my campaign and endorsing Newt Gingrich for president of the United States," Perry said.

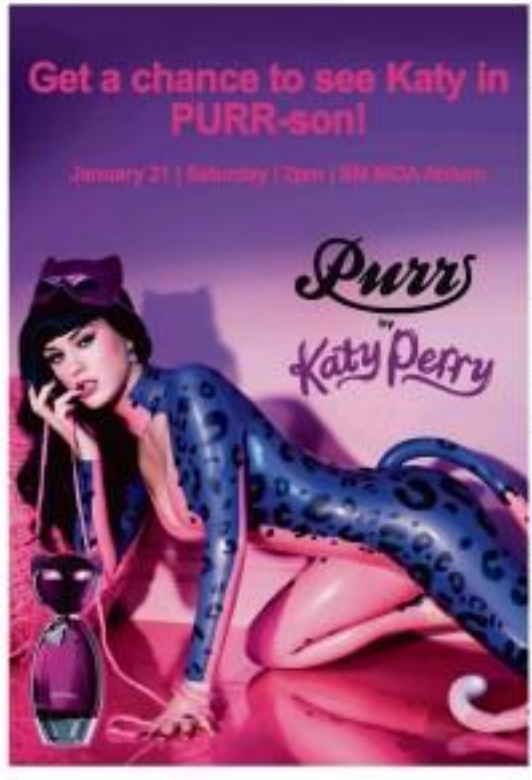
"As a Texan, I've never shied away from a fight, particularly when I considered the cause to be righteous, but ... I know when it's time to make a strategic retreat," he told supporters in North Charleston.

It was an ignominious end for the tough-talking Texan, who seemed to have answered the prayers of top Republican rebels when he entered the race in August, vaulting in the front of the pack as the ultimate non-Romney candidate.

But the photogenic 61-year-old US Air Force veteran with a thick crop of dark hair never forged support after entering the race to the debates, displaying a weak grasp of policy and making a series of embarrassing gaffes.

The four remaining candidates—Gingrich, Romney, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul—will battle it out on Thursday night in the final debate before Saturday's vote. AFP

PERRY



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# BUSINESS

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# Significant growth in BPO sector seen

## 'Anti-outsourcing move in US just election-year politics'

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S business process outsourcing (BPO) sector will continue to grow significantly over the next 12 months despite efforts by American policymakers to discourage the "offshoring" of work to countries like the Philippines to address high unemployment in the United States.

Canada-based research firm 3MG Global said in its annual "predictions" report that outsourcing would remain a key option for many companies in the US and Europe looking to cut costs and make operations more efficient.

"Offshoring is a manifestation of an ongoing economic evolution that will not go away," 3MG said.

"In fact the criticisms of the Anti-ORE duties fall due in the upcoming US elections, 3MG believes this is purely election-year politics and will not dampen globalization of services," the firm added.

SIGNIFICANT /B2

**Power Situation Outlook**
for Saturday, 21 January 2012

| | Luzon | Visayas | Mindanao |
|---|---|---|---|
| Available Capacity (MW) | 7,198 | 1,784 | 1,227 |
| System Peak (MW) | 6,092 | 1,282 | 1,156 |
| Gross Reserve (MW) | 1,016 | 832 | 71 |

## INDICATORS

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

43.275

**STOCK MARKET**

47.53

### PSEi surges to new high

THE LOCAL stock market sprang to unprecedented heights for a third straight day yesterday, powered largely by strong investor interest in index-heavyweights PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 1 percent or 47.53 points to close at a new all-time high at 4,749.38, which was likewise the day's peak. The broad stock benchmark then gained a total of 134.67 points or 2.9 percent this week as strong foreign fund inflows offset profit-taking by local investors.

All counters indexes' highs, led by property, financial and mining/oil counters, which surged 3.3 percent, 1 percent and 1.31 percent, respectively. Property and banking stocks benefited from a much-awaited 25-percentkey interest rate reduction by the Bangko Sentralng Pilipinas on Thursday.

PLDT contributed the most to the PSEi's rise as the telecoms giant climbed at a 52-week high of P3,888 a share, up 0.65 percent. The telco, which has the single-biggest weight of

Hide ad

## S&P sees tighter credit market for Asian companies

By Michelle V. Remo

CORPORATE entities in the Philippines and the rest of Asia are facing a tougher fund-raising environment this year as the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone makes foreign investors wary of investing in emerging market assets and pushes interest rates higher.

This was according to Moody's Investors Service, which said in a report that the crisis in the West was likely to push some investors in the sidelines, thereby dampening demand for portfolio instruments over these Asian countries, which are projected to still post decent growth rates this year despite global uncertainties.

"Caution and uncertainty look to be the bywords for at least the early part of 2012," said Lisaan Arora, vice president and senior credit officer at Moody's.

The credit rating firm said that should corporate entities be able to raise funds from the international bond market, this would not come without higher cost.

"In this more challenging environment, speculative-grade companies could face higher costs and weaker since could have limited access to credit if investors decide it is too risky to lend to low-rated companies," Arora said.

Earlier this month, nine countries from the euro zone, including France, had their credit ratings downgraded by Standard & Poor's.

# PSE lifts trading restrictions on Gatchalian firms' shares

## But six issues will remain under 'close watch'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday lifted the stock trading restrictions on six companies affiliated with the group of Filipino-Chinese businessman William Gatchalian that were probed for alleged trading irregularities three years ago.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 19, the PSE said the trading restrictions on Ayala (PSE:) Hotel Corp. (ACO), Pureza Pacific Inc. (PPI), Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. (MVC), Philippine Estates Corp. (PHES), Waterfront Phils. Inc. (WPI), and Phelps Industries Inc. (WPI) that were imposed in 2009 were lifted effective yesterday.

But the PSE added that all trades involving these companies would still be subject to its "close watch."

Mabuhay Vinyl is not officially part of the Wellex group but the Gatchalians' stake listed company Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp., was listed among its top 100 stockholders at the time the restrictions took effect.

"The listing of the trading restrictions is conditioned on the companies' and its related entities' continuing maintenance of only one account each with Meridian Global Equities Inc. for the purposes of trading PSE-listed shares," PSE president Hans Sicat said in the memorandum.

Failure by the stock brokerage house affiliated with the group...

Sicat added that the lifting of the restrictions would be "without prejudice to any action that may hereafter be deemed necessary by the Exchange in accordance with existing laws and rules in case of any violation of the PSE rules issued in order to maintain and preserve an efficient, fair and orderly market as mandated by the Securities Regulation Code."

In February 2009, the PSE and its clearing and settlement arm, the Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines (SCCP) tightened the trading rules only in three companies.

They required an early delivery of securities or cash on trades of stocks of these companies, saying they did not wish to "unnecessarily expose our stock market to clearing and settlement risks as this would compromise the integrity of our markets."

Citing the need to protect public investors, the PSE had required those who traded the shares of these companies to make sure that the trades were ready for electronic settlement from day one instead of the usual three-day settlement period for the local bourse.

Although the PSE did not officially explain why such restrictions were imposed in the first place, it was reported in 2009 that stock trades on these companies were penalized for "kiting" and "wash sales."

Kiting generally occurs when securities firms fail to deliver securities of buy and sell transactions on time or before the three-day settlement period.

The firm failing to receive the securities is required to make up for the shortage by buying from the open market.

The delinquent firm is practicing the fraudulent act of kiting if it fails to purchase the securities in the open market and instructs a third party, perhaps debtors or others just to transactions contrary to regulations regarding the proper settlement of trades.

Wash sale, on the other hand, refers to the practice of repeatedly reselling the same shares to keep stock prices at an artificial level.

## *Meralco completes more projects*

By Zoey B. Reyes

MANILA, Manila Co., the country's biggest power distributor, completed seven projects in the last two months of 2011 to further enhance its distribution network and reduce systems loss.

"These projects, which are all part of our approved capital expenditure program, will reinforce our electric distribution system and thus further improve electric service to our customers," said Manila executive vice president and industrials head Ricardo S. Buencamino.

The recently completed projects involve the construction of a new substation, capacity additions to two existing substations, replacement of a distribution transformer, the construction of an additional 115-kilovolt sub-transmission line and two new distribution lines.

The new Colombo substation, commissioned last Dec. 30, augmented Meralco's distribution capacity in the southern part of its franchise area to meet the increasing power requirements of customers in Colombo and Cardolong areas, including industrial customers in Light Industry and Science Park II (LISP II) and First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP).

The transformer at the Bonanza substation was also commissioned last Nov. 15, 2011 to boost the adjacent Bonanza and San Pablo II substations, while the utility's distribution facilities in 9000s Manila were augmented with the increased capacities at Tagaro and Hillman substations.

Also, a second 115kV source for the Substation Global City-I substation and a new distribution line from Dolores substation were completed.

# OceanaGold to start mining at Didipio

By Rica T. Chuhuanco

OCEANAGOLD Corp. disclosed Friday that it expects mining at the Didipio gold project in Nueva Vizcaya to start within the first quarter of this year.

Commercial production or gold plant commissioning is expected to start around the end of 2013 to early 2015.

The Australian miner aims to expand production to a range of 200,000 to 250,000 ounces of gold by 2015, when production at Didipio complements output from New Zealand.

Concrete pouring for the plant at Didipio started in November 2011 as scheduled, OceanaGold said that despite heavy rain during the quarter, bulk earthworks for the plant site were completed and excavation progressed reasonably well for the power station.

"The mining contract was awarded and the contractor commenced mobilizing ... in late December," according to the company disclosure to the Australian Securities Exchange.

OceanaGold said the construction camp is nearing completion with about 900 construction contractors and staff on site.

All major construction contracts are either awarded or in the process of being tendered.

The Australian miner said it spent $49.9 million on construction works for Didipio in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Total construction costs since June 2011 has so far reached $65.6 million.

OceanaGold's total exploration expenditure for the fourth quarter of 2011 reached $3.4 million.

In the Philippines alone, further soil sampling activities near Didipio and geological mapping or other movements were conducted.

Also during the quarter, the company said it hosted a site visit where analysts and investors had the opportunity to meet the project team, see the mineralization first-hand and witness the company's ties with the local community.

The mayor of Kasibu, the barangay captain (village chief) of Didipio and the president of the Didipio Community Development Corporation (Dicorp) participated in the site visit.

Total fourth quarter gold production was up 3.1 percent on the previous quarter to 61,782 ounces bringing the total for 2011 to 202,439 ounces.

"This was slightly below expectations for the quarter and subsequently the year," OceanaGold said.

For the full year 2011, including a year-end adjustment for inventory, the unaudited cash costs were $675 an ounce, which is within the guidance range of $650 to $800 per ounce.

OceanaGold owns and operates New Zealand's largest gold mine, Macraes (Open Pit and Frasers Underground) and Reefton Goldfields. The assets are located on the South Island of New Zealand.

# PSEi surges to new high

Turn to page B2

15.6 percent on the PSEi, is the country's most valuable company with a market cap of P411 billion based on Friday's close.

Based on PSE documents, PLDT hit an all-time high of P3,260 on Oct. 8, 2007. Adjusted for the dilutive impact of a share swap deal to take over Digitel, PLDT's peak is estimated at about P2,983 a share. The telco, which has been attracting strong investor interest due to its dividend yield stock trend, announced late Thursday the completion of a tender offer to Digitel's minority shareholders resulting in its ownership of 98 percent of Digitel's enlarged capital.

"The PSE index record highs are an expression of sustained investor confidence in the Aquino administration. Further boosting the capital market is dismal gain in Asian markets primed obviously by good news that Europe and US economies stayed on recovery track," PSE chair Jose Ibazeta said at a news meeting.

Ibazeta said he had predicted as early as December that the PSEi would breach the 4,500 level in January.

The PSE chair added he was happy that the issuance of trading hours two the afternoon had been executed this year despite initial opposition from some trading participants.

Value turnover yesterday was high at P7.43 billion. There were 186 advancers that overwhelmed 68 decliners while 43 stocks were unchanged.

Doris C. Dumlao

# Significant growth in BPO sector seen

Turn to page B6

The company said the outsourcing sectors of countries like the Philippines and India were likely to grow as much as 20 percent this year.

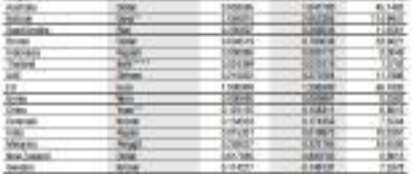
"With the lingering effects and tremors of the 2008 global recession still fresh among enterprises, a new genre of companies will continue to look offshore to seek new ways to reduce operating costs and maximize productivity levels," ISMG said.

The firm said the latest anti-outsourcing proposal would not be enough to deter companies from setting up shop in destinations where labor costs were considerably lower and productivity rates higher.

The Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) said in its 2011 report that the BPO industry was now the second biggest contributor to the local economy next to remittance inflows from overseas Filipinos.

The report further stated that the BPO sector contributed close to $6 billion in export revenues last year, representing a 4.6-percent share of the country's GDP. The target for 2012 was set at $11 billion.

By 2016, the industry group expected the country's BPO revenues to hit the $20-billion mark, or a 10-percent share to the global market and at the same level as OFW remittances.



# Exports from Clark doubled to $2.2B in 2011

## Electronics, tires, garments account for bulk of shipments

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—Exports from enterprises in this freeport, a former American military air base, reached $2.238 billion in 2011, representing a 101-percent increase from the $1.453 billion volume in 2010, the president of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) said.

Clark reached this export growth despite the slump in markets overseas because of the strengths of the electronics sector that accounted for $1.373 billion in total exports, CDC president Felipe Antonio Remollo said on Thursday.

Tires shipped out from Clark amounted to $496 million and garments, $226 million.

Other manufacturing companies and aviation-related firms exported goods worth $131 million and $13 million, respectively.

The exports volume in 2011 indicated that the CDC was ahead by three years in terms of target, Remollo said.

The cabinet performance scorecard system (CPSS) of Malacañang set $2 billion by (investments) and 300,000 jobs by 2004.

CDC records showed that Nissan Philippines remained as Clark's lead exporter, producing electronics worth $791 million.

The Korean company Phoenix Semiconductor Philippines Corp., which began operations in Clark in January 2010, exported over $566 million worth of electronic parts.

The Japanese firm Fukushima Tires Philippines (fitd in short), but the value of its export products rose by 31 percent to $265 million.

The other top exporters were I&T International ($145 million), IMK Electronics ($98 million) and HJD Clark Steel Pipe ($71 million).

# Aboitiz unit to supply Mindanao co-ops

By Amy R. Borno

TAWIMA Marine Inc. of the the Aboitiz group has been given the green light to start supplying power to two electric cooperatives in Mindanao...a move that will help increase the volume of power for distribution on the island.

These approvals are especially crucial now that the Mindanao grid is an evil alert due to lack of power supply reserves.

In two separate orders, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) gave its approval for the power supply agreements between Therma Marine and Cambanoga Del Sur 1 Electric Cooperative Inc. (Cansurenco I) and Cambanoga Del Sur II Electric Cooperative Inc. (Cansurenco II).

The ERC noted that these would provide consumers with "continuous, reliable, efficient and affordable power supply."

Under the agreement, Therma Marine will supply 5 megawatts of power to Cansurenco I over the next three years.

The electricity will be sourced from the diesel-fired Power Barge 117, located in Brgy. Sta. Ana, Sinaloh, Agusan del Norte, and/or the PB 118, which is currently moored in Brgy. San Roque, Misa, Campostela Valley.

Each of the power barges has the capacity to generate 100 megawatts.

Similarly, the agreement between Therma Marine and Cansurenco II will be confined for three years, in which the Aboitiz-led firm will be supplying 4 MW. The electricity will also be sourced from the two power barges.

Therma Marine's power barges were previously owned by the state-run National Power Corp.

In July 2009, power firm APC won the negotiated bid with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. for the acquisition of the power barges, which were then turned over to the power giant in 2010 upon payment of the bid price.

# PDIC reports 6% rise in bank deposits to ₱5.1T

By Michelle V. Borno

BANK deposits in the country grew further in the third quarter due to the modest rise in income levels and moderated public confidence in the banking sector, regulators said.

The rise in deposits as of end-September last year would boost lending activities of banks this year, thereby supporting efforts to accelerate growth in consumption and investments.

Data from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) showed that as of end-September last year, total deposits amounted to ₱5.1 trillion, rising by almost 6 percent from ₱4.8 trillion in the same period the previous year.

The deposits are placed in 41.9 million accounts, PDIC said.

Also, about 97 percent of deposit accounts were fully covered by deposit insurance because the amount deposited in each of these accounts amounted to ₱500,000 or less, the regulator said.

Under PDIC's charter, deposits worth at ₱500,000 or below are covered by insurance.

Nearly half of the total deposits, or ₱2.45 trillion, are in the form of regular savings. The balance is composed of long-term deposits.

Moreover, more than half of the total deposits, or ₱2.76 trillion, were placed by individual clients. Private firms and government institutions accounted for the rest.

Nestor Espenilla Jr., deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, earlier said bank lending in 2012 would remain robust this year.

The central bank said credit growth in 2011 accelerated to double-digit pace in over two years on the back of rising liquidity of banks aided by growing deposits from the public.

The BSP earlier reported that outstanding loans from universal and commercial banks amounted to ₱2.71 trillion as of end-November, rising by 20.8 percent from ₱2.24 trillion as of the same period the previous year.

Espenilla said that, despite the substantial rise in loans last year, banks could still afford to lend more.

Industry players agreed, noting that most banks have appetite for higher lending this year.

Angelo Mastrilli, president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said credit would likely post another double-digit expansion in 2012, serving anywhere between 18 and 21 percent in the first quarter.

Mastrilli, who is also president of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, said banks would likely lend more this year to counter the dampening effect of lower interest rates on income.

GERMAN Ambassador Joachig Holstein (center) addresses members of the media during an event at the Marco Polo Hotel Ortigas. With him are (from left): Hadina Faud of the German Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Consul General Franz Seidelmann, Maria Marsalgo and Antonio Lobina, both of the Department of Energy

# In preparing budget, Palace widens consultations

By Reuters W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG is broadening consultations with civil society as it kicks off the process of preparing the national budget for 2013.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said in a statement that six departments and three agencies of the government recently met with civil society organizations.

The figure is more than the number of government entities that had participated in consultations when the 2012 budget was being prepared.

The new batch includes representatives of environment, local government, justice, labor, tourism, and transportation and communication as well as the Land Bank Trust Authority, National Electrification Administration, and National Irrigation Administration.

Pioneers in consulting with CSOs on the budget were six departments including those of education, health, social welfare, public works, agriculture, and agrarian reform.

There were also three poorest agencies, including the National Youth Commission, National Housing Authority and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Growth Corridor.

"Expanding the reach of our CSO engagement activities is part of the government's commitment to the Open Government Partnership, of which the Philippines is an active member-country," Abad said.

This year's budget is a product of consultations with CSOs, which participated in the preparation process.

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"Expanding the reach of our CSO engagement activities is part of the government's commitment to the Open Government Partnership, of which the Philippines is an active member-country," Abad said.

"We are establishing this as the Aquino administration's new tradition of early budget preparation, so that subsequent national budgets will be rationed and implemented quickly."

Earlier this week, the budget chief said Malacañang approved the preparation of the 2013 budget to ensure prompt implementation of government programs and the quick delivery of key services.

"So the President broke ground with the earliest budget signing since (martial law), so the we follow suit and (the early) preparation of the proposed budget for 2013," Abad said. "We are establishing this as the Aquino administration's new tradition of early budget preparation, so that subsequent national budgets will be rationed and implemented quickly."

# Traders expect a good year for sugar

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE sugar industry expects higher yield from Luzon and Mindanao, where warm weather has helped boost production, industry stakeholders said.

Ambrosio Amarra of Busco Holdings Inc. said the Philippine Sugar Board may in fact review its production forecast by next month in response to reports of improved sugarcane production.

Amarra said to be the executive director of the industry group Philippine Sugar Millers Association Inc.

As of Jan. 1, sugar output reached 862,916.80 metric tons. It was 24.77 percent higher than the 707,672.81 metric tons reported in the same period last year.

The present crop year, 2011-2012, will end in August.

Also, Philippine sugar millers and traders are prepared to meet any potential additional sugar quota from the United States, Amarra said.

Industry players are confident that they can export more of the commodity to the US market.

The sugar industry is prepared to ship at least 100,000 metric tons of sugar to the United States, on top of the 128,000 metric tons allocated to the Philippines for crop year 2011-2012.

The Philippines, which has been a reliable exporter of sugar, is one of the countries given an annual export allocation of premium sugar to the United States.

The Philippines expects to ship out some 676,000 metric tons, or 28 percent, of total sugar production this crop year.

Earlier, the Sugar Regulatory Administration had to lower its production estimates for crop year 2011-2012 to 2.4 million metric tons, from 2.42 million metric tons, citing possible effects of La Niña weather disturbance on the crops.

# In Metro Manila, more workers hired than fired in Q3

By Reuters W. Domingo

THE NUMBER of jobs among the top large companies in Metro Manila rose in the third quarter of 2011 as the rate of hiring outpaced the rate of job loss, according to the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics.

Latest data from the BLES show that for every 1,000 workers in the National Capital Region, 111 new hires were added but 66 quit or were fired.

Job growth was largest in the service of real estate, renting and business activities, while job loss was greatest in mining and quarrying.

The data is part of the BLES' survey of 700 large corporations in the National Capital Region, which were drawn from the 2010 edition of the Securities and Exchange Commission's list of "Top 20,000 Corporations."

The rate of growth in employments settled at a rate of 2.11 percent, which meant 15 new workers were added for every 1,000, as hiring rate was recorded at 11.01 percent while separation rate was 8.55 percent.

Also, the net growth in employment among large firms in July to September 2011 represented a turnaround from the decline of 2.06 percent seen in the preceding quarter.

However, the figure translated to a slower growth from the 3.06 percent reported in the same quarter of 2010.

Further, the survey found that large enterprises took in new employees to fill in vacated posts and to address the need for additional hands because of business expansion.

As for job displacement, quitting continued to be a bigger reason than layoff as observed in 10 of the 14 industry sectors that the study covered.

Quitting was noted to be "particularly high" in the sectors of real estate, renting and business activities (65.6 percent); hotels and restaurants (63.8 percent); and manufacturing (61.1 percent).

Layoffs were observed to be highest in mining and quarrying (17 percent); hotels and restaurants (8.3 percent); fishing (4.2 percent); and real estate, renting and business activities (4.1 percent).

Other sectors the study covered included "community, social and personal services", "education; construction; transport, storage and communications; financial intermediation; agriculture and forestry; health and social work; wholesale and retail trade; and electricity, gas and water.

# ADB says PH may fully recover from last year's slump

THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) expects the Philippines to fully recover from last year's economic slowdown, saying that the likely increase in public spending and sustained growth in remittance inflows will support consumption.

ADB expects the Philippine economy to expand by 4.8 per cent this year compared with the estimated growth of below 4 per cent last year.

The growth forecast for 2012, nonetheless, is still slow compared with the three-decade-high growth of 7.6 percent registered in 2010.

"Strong private consumption backed by robust remittance inflows, increasing public investment, and gradual export recovery will support the Philippines' economic recovery in 2012," ADB vice president Stephen Groff said in a speech the other day during an economic forum organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

The ADB official said a 4.8 percent growth for the Philippines is attainable given strengths of the domestic economy, such as robust household spending, that may help cushion the impact of unfavorable economic developments abroad.

The government's commitment to increase public spending this year is also expected to give boost to economic growth.

But Groff said that more strategies should be done to safeguard for the Philippines to attain an even faster growth over the medium term.

He said the Philippines should diversify its export products, saying that significant dependence on electronics makes the country's export earnings vulnerable to cyclical trends.

Last year, the country saw its export earnings decline in the wake of the crisis in Europe and lackluster growth of the US economy. The US and the euro zone are two of the Philippines' major export markets.

"This lack of diversification makes the Philippines quite vulnerable compared to its neighbors, while exports continued to grow despite the global slowdown," Groff said.

He also suggested that the Philippines export more to other emerging economies, as these are seen to grow at a much faster rate than advanced economies.

The United States and Europe account for about 38 percent of Philippine export earnings.

The ADB official likewise stressed the importance of fulfilling the government's commitment to increase public spending this year following the lower-than-programmed spending last year.

"Lower infrastructure spending largely reflects the administration's efforts to improve governance and transparency in public projects. While this diligence is necessary and commendable, spending will have to increase to mitigate the impact of the deleterious global environment," Groff said. Michelle V. Borno

## INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of La Union, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers, manufacturers and distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

1. Name of Project : **SUV**
   Location : Office of the Provincial Governor
   Brief Description : Specifications
   2004 Mitsubishi Pajero
   Approved Budget for the Contract : P1,500,000.00
2. Name of Project : **ASSORTED PRINTING MATERIALS**
   Location : Office of the Provincial Governor
   Brief Description : Specifications
   150 pieces Trolley Bag, Laptop Bag, w/ Print, 1,000 pieces Polo Barong Print, 1,500 pieces Laptop Bag w/ Print and 5,000 pieces Umbrella
   Approved Budget for the Contract : P1,070,000.00
   Contract Duration : 150 days
   Delivery Period : February 2012

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is there, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | January 16, 2012 to February 6, 2012 at the BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | January 27, 2012, 10:00 a.m.<br>Conference Room Inside PHO, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union |
| 3. Opening of Bids | February 6, 2012, 10:00 a.m.<br>Conference Room Inside PHO, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | February 6, 2012 |
| 5. Post-qualification | February 7, 2012 |
| 6. Notice of Award | February 13, 2012 |

Item no. 1 Bid Documents shall be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

Item no. 2 Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The Provincial Government of La Union reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or make cash claims for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.

Approved by:

**ATTY. JOSE SECRETARIO G. ELAZ**
BAC Chairman

(PPR - Jan. 21, 2012)

## NOTICE TO ALL MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, AND PROJECT CONTRACTORS

**RESCHEDULING OF MEETING FROM TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2012 TO:**

DATE : FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY 2012
TIME : 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM
VENUE : QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB, INC.
E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
AGENDA : MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BARANGAY AND SITIO ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 25 JANUARY 2012. PLEASE E-MAIL THEIR ADDRESS **ecom@noee.gov.ph** OR TELEFAX NO. 929-39-30.

DETAILS CAN BE SECURED FROM ANGELICA B. MALIZON AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMPONENT AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TRAINING (COOT) AT TELEPHONE NOS. 929-21-03 AND 929-20-32.

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

(SGD.) **EDITH G. BUENO**
ADMINISTRATOR

(PPR - January 20 & 21, 2012)

## NOTICE

**CONCEPCION GRANDE DEVELOPMENT, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an expanding developer of low-cost mass housing project (**BL James Avenue**) with a capacity of 851 low-cost mass housing units on a consolidated status with project site at Brgy. Concepcion Grande, Naga City, Camarines Sur.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within thirty (30) days from the date of this publication.

(SGD.) **GUILLERMO S. LAQUI-BANKOM**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PPR - January 15, 2012)

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# OBITUARIES

January 21, 2013

*"Lives of great men all remind us*
*We can make our lives sublime,*
*And departing, leave behind us*
*Footprints in the sand of time."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
A Psalm of Life

IN MEMORIAM OF

## Dr. Virgilio Domingo De Los Santos

**4th President of The University of Manila**
**January 15, 1927 to January 21, 2008**
**On His 4th Death Anniversary**

The University of Manila community together with the bereaved members of the family, relatives, and friends request everyone to join them in praying for his eternal happiness during the celebration of the Holy Mass at The University Chapel, today at 10:30 AM.

Other Masses will be held at:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mother of Perpetual Help | 6:45 AM |
| Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat | 7:00 AM |
| San Sebastian Parish | 7:00 AM |
| Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes | 8:00 AM |
| St. Anthony's Shrine | 8:15 AM |
| National Shrine of St. Michael and The Archangels | 7:00 AM |
| Sto. Domingo Convent | 7:00 AM |
| Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene | 6:00 AM |
| Sta. Cruz Parish Church | 8:00 AM |
| St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine | 6:30 AM |

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." - John 3:16

## EDWIN TOMAS SALAS GUTIERREZ

Joined his Creator
on the 19th of January 2013

His wife Eleanore; daughters Ina Bi Teodoro-Sta. Ana, Patricia Anne Eleanore with husband Joseph and Mia Ana Felicia

His brothers Alberto (†), Jaime, Oliver, Jose Jr., Ramon, Clifford and Wharton and their families request the prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in Filtoda Salas Funeraria in San Antonio Parish, Makati City.

There will be a Mass at 11a.m. on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

Cremation will follow at 1p.m. in Eve Memorial, Marilao, Bulacan.

Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, 2013 at St. Michael Archangel Parish also in Marilao, Bulacan. Interment will follow at the Marilao Catholic Cemetery.

## WULFILDO J. NANTES

**December 9, 1948 - January 17, 2013**

His sisters and brother, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 326 Concepcion St., Lucban, Quezon.

Interment will be on January 23, 2013, Monday at 10:00 am at the Lucban Roman Catholic Cemetery.

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Message starting...*
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## DEATH NOTICE

**Lolita Bulaong vda. de Lapuz**

passed away in the grace of our Lord on January 16, 2013 at the age of 87.

His remains lie in the family residence at 31 Sinsuela St., Tagaog, Malolos.

Interment will be on January 22, 2013 at Plaridel Memorial Park, Matimbo, Malolos, Bulacan.

The family requests the prayers readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

# People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Jong Arcasas

## GLOBE LAUNCHES FIRST CONCEPT STORE IN BACOLOD

GLOBE Telecom, one of the leading telecommunications firm in the country, launched its first concept store in the island City with cool ing-the-award-winning and revolutionary store design in the people of Bacolod. Located in SM City Bacolod, the newest addition to the growing list of Globe Concept Stores in the country is a one-stop telecommunications shop that is situated in the Digital District of the bustling city of Bacolod. The Globe Store aims to provide a unique and rewarding experience for its customers allowing visitors to easily browse around the product displays, try and test the phones and gadgets, as well as get quick access to after-sales support. Shown in photo is Bacolod City Mayor Evelio "Bing" Leonardia (first from left) flanked by Globe chief strategist Maria Sharon "Mae-Cheza" Ilar (right) and assistant retail manager Mae Pagulayan (far left) during the store launch last December 2011. Globe will continue to open more of the redesigned Stores in strategic locations all over the country this year. To date, Globe has opened 14 concept stores spread in key areas all over the country.

## A happy new year with LG Mobile

START the year right by getting organized and connected using smartphones with the latest technologies.

From Jan. 7 to 31, customers can get exciting price drops and instant freebies on selected LG Mobile purchases. From the latest offering, the Optimus Net Dual Sim will be offered at a marked down price! The Optimus Net Dual Sim is LG's latest offering under the Optimus line.

Already with Android 2.3.3 Gingerbread OS, the Optimus Net Dual Sim allows users to switch lines with ease and efficiency.

LG Mobile is one of the top smartphone providers in the world enrolled for innovating industry game changers like the Optimus 3D - the world's first full 3D smartphone with 3D-shot technology and the Optimus Black - the smartphone with the world's brightest WVGA display.

LG Mobile's other user-friendly and affordable mobile products are the Optimus Hub with Social Hunting capabilities, the Optimus Pro and the Optimus One - the latest Gingerbread smartphones from the Optimus line, as well as the most popular Optimus Chic, Cookie and Fresh models.

Visit LG Mobile Concept stores nationwide for more details on the promo.

## PIZZA PEDRICOS BUILDS CEBU COMMISSARY

MAJOR growing national pizza chain Pizza Pedricos is building a new commissary in Cebu to support its network expansion of stores in the Visayas and Mindanao regions this 2012. Shown here with the Pizza Pedricos Cebu Business Support Team is managing director Marvin Tanunkiao (seventh from left) leading the dedication ceremony. Recently awarded a special citation on Product Innovation by Entrepreneur Magazine Philippines for its unique 4-pizza-in-a-box concept, Pizza Pedricos is now equipped to serve 150 outlets nationwide and is growing its network to 200 outlets this 2012.

## ATI taps HP for systems upgrade

PUBLICLY-LISTED port operator Asian Terminals Inc. has tapped industry-leader Hewlett-Packard (HP) as its partner in upgrading its major system that supports its 24/7 frontline and backroom port operations.

ATI has availed of HP's Blade Systems Matrix to replace its legacy servers. HP Blade System Matrix, as part of HP's Converged Infrastructures, provides simplified management, improved operational efficiency and cost effectiveness. This transition is part of ATI's continuous investment on new systems and technologies to further provide faster, convenient and more reliable services to its customers in the port and shipping industry.

HP's cloud solution combines the power of multiple servers into one, thus resulting in lower energy consumption, maintenance cost and carbon footprint for the company over the long-term while increasing data security and redundancy.

More importantly, the transition accelerates service delivery and provides more user-friendly applications in mid-zones via the new technology.

ATI's EVP Ernest Simeon (second from left) and HP Philippines' managing director, Ryan Guadalquiver (third from left), lead the deal with a handshake at ATI's headquarters in Manila as ATI's SVP for IT Alex Sangalang and HP business development manager for Converged Infrastructure Solutions, Jonathan Cua, look on.

## DOOSAN CLEANUP

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways unit Doosan construction units is helping clean up the area affected by combined climate effects of recent typhoon Sendong. Every one continues to do their part in clearing away the devastation caused by the super typhoon. The photo of a Doosan backhoe is shown working on an affected area in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao.

# Megaworld Foundation donates P5M for Sendong survivors

MEGAWORLD Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of property giant Megaworld Corp., has donated a total of P5 million in cash and in-kind to aid two institutions so that these funds will reach different areas in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities immediately. Philippine National Red Cross chair Richard Gordon (center) received a P1-million check from Megaworld Foundation executive director Dante Mathay while an unidentified lady (from left) Red Cross CEC for Food Generation Insurance Bureau and country representative Silverdream Sinamayag and Megaworld Foundation supervisor Michael Ferrer.

# New Wilcon-RCBC Bankard MasterCard launched

NOW a better time to build or improve your home than the start of the new year? Providing just the tool you need for your home construction and improvements, RCBC Bankard launched its new co-brand card, the Wilcon-RCBC Bankard MasterCard. Backed by the strength of the country's premiere building and interior design supply provider, Wilcon, and international payment brand MasterCard, the new RCBC Bankard gives cardholders enhanced financial flexibility to build or improve their dream home through exclusive benefits and special privileged promo offers and events.

The Wilcon-RCBC Bankard MasterCard is perfect for big-ticket or multi-item purchases, with a separate installment limit that you can avail on top of the regular credit limit. Plus, all-year round! 0 percent installment promo on select items at Wilcon stores for a minimum purchase of P3,000 or 3, 6, 9, and 12-installment terms.

To reward you for your shopping, the Wilcon-RCBC Bankard MasterCard features a loyalty program that gives you 1X reward points for all purchases made at Wilcon stores. Accumulated rewards points can then be redeemed as rewards vouchers and used for future purchases at Wilcon stores.

Complementing these benefits are other privileges such as special loans as all Wilcon stores, 15-1/F as home improvement workshops as well as 10 percent discount on interior project and lumberyard project assistance from Malayan Insurance, the number one non-life insurance company in the Philippines.

RCBC Bankard is indeed, "Making your Life Better" with the exclusive benefits and privileges of the Wilcon-RCBC Bankard MasterCard, the welcome addition to its suite of credit card products.

## RECENT FOODS RELIEF AID

THE DONATION at Cagayan de Oro by Iphoma Sendong has brought Regent Foods Corp. (RFC) Cagayan de Oro plant initiated identifying hours into neighboring community by donating a container van full of Regent tuna, canned goods, water and clothes for the victims of the typhoon. Nelly Sia, president of Regent Foods Corp. together with the local Regent Foods CDO employees distributed the relief goods recently at RFC CDO plant. The relief efforts were made possible through company and individual donations, including the RFC Manila employees for providing clothing and monetary donations.

# Res | Toe | Run's 'Fresh' visual campaign best window display at Robinson's

RES | TOE | RUN'S window display, entitled "Holidays Freshest Pick" was chosen the Best Window Store Front Display in the recent competition held by Robinsons Ermita-Manila.

Introducing a subtle yet a strong emotional message about the brand and its core product offerings in shoe shoppers, the window's playful backdrop and accompanying elements are creatively designed, visually appealing and novel.

"The inspiration came from a mistletoe and to relate it with food which is the concept of the store, we used the mistletoe to represent as apple along with the hanged brownie as a bauble," said Rose Balbuza, the store's visual merchandiser.

The end results of the visual campaign are very simple yet effective, as the symbolism purely placed all the attention on the footwear collection themselves. "The Holiday Freshest Pick title was used because this Christmas season, customers get to pick the freshest footwear styles from all over the world in Res | Toe | Run. The window was literally filled with displays as it signifies abundance," added Balbuza.

For her part, Joy Aurelia, Res | Toe | Run brand manager, said the boutique's theme signals the universal message and excitement that came with the Yuletide celebration.

"We wanted to let the customers feel the spirit of Christmas every time they visit our stores, and also to make their shopping experience an amazing one. Aside from the display, we also have Christmas songs played to set up their mood."

Apart from the holiday store look, an online contest via Facebook, the "Holidays' Freshest Smile" was also implemented in all stores nationwide where customers can pose, show their freshest smile, take a picture on the frame located in the store window and post in the Res | Toe | Run fan page. The final winner who got the highest number of likes was Chic Aurore Estrella, who received a P1,000 worth of Res | Toe | Run GCs and whose photo was displayed at the Res | Toe | Run's window.

Res | Toe | Run's boutiques are located at Ayala Fairview, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Glorietta 4, Shangri-La Edsa, Northmall, Alabang Town Center, Alabang Market, Ayala Shangrila Mall, Ayala Cebu, Robinsons Lanang, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons General Santos, Robinsons Iligan, Ayala Ambassador, Legaspi City, Subroad 2, Ayala Bacolod, Laguna and Ayala Abreeza in Davao City.

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# PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosong

THE FUTURE of the insurance climate, like the wrong-shot envelopes the Makati skyline, is unclear.

# Foreign investors unaffected by Senate trial, say experts

NO way to go but to move up. More high-rises dominate the urban landscape.

## But PH real estate index may be affected

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

Second in a series

FIRST GOOD news: Manila has just been upgraded in commercial investment prospects this year. Second good news: International property investors are not at all bothered by the ongoing impeachment trial proceedings in the Senate.

In an exclusive *Park interview* with Urban Land Institute trustee and Asia's Asia chair Steven Fenery in the office of ULI Philippines founding dean Carlos Ballesteros, Dec. 14, 2015, he stated that he was aware of the showdown between Malacañang and the Supreme Court Chief Justice. He stressed that this political issue would not affect the perception of foreign property investors.

"In majority of countries, I think people look at these headlines every day, they look beyond that and people such as investors as well as those respondents are interested in the Philippines increasingly."

Fenery's property reported last week that the Philippines has been increasingly important destination for property investments. Manila was upgraded in commercial investment prospects by two ranks in the Emerging Markets in Asia Pacific 2015 (a real estate forecast jointly published by the Urban Land Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers).

Manila's improvement—from the 20th to 18th for this year—was largely due to the improved combined growth in the gross domestic product of the Philippines.

"A new government and a surge in foreign investment in the business process outsourcing market—fresh office and call centers, for the most part—have helped the commercial real estate market, boosting the city's 2012 investment prospects," the report noted.

Covering 21 markets in the Asia Pacific, the Emerging Trends ranking is based on the opinions of more than 500 respondents comprised of internationally renowned real estate professionals, including investors, developers, property company representatives, lenders, brokers and consultants.

Included in the 32-page report, however, has been the six-place slide of Manila in terms of development, falling to 17th in readings.

Ingrid Vicente, a professor at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and senior adviser at Wong+Bernstein Business Advisory, said that generally, the impeachment pro-

A NEW government and a surge in foreign investments, particularly in BPOs, have propped up the commercial real estate market and, consequently, the country's investment prospects in 2015.


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FEDERAL LAND

# Rockwell Land sets benchmark for suitable workspaces

By Theresa S. Santamaria

IDEALLY, WORKSPACES should be built with the comfort of users in mind.

After all, like in others any typical office worker spends at least a third of his day, and could thus greatly influence moods, productivity and even work-related decisions.

With the limited spaces in the metro however, a number of companies are forced to make settle for a less-suited hole that nonetheless can even pass big enough to house only a desk, cabinet and a computer for each employee.

Upscale property developer Rockwell Land Corp., however, has changed the way office buildings in the Philippines should be built. While known for its high-end residential and commercial developments at the Rockwell Center in Makati, the company says it has learned the secrets when it developed the 1.3 hectare site within the compound of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to build the Rockwell Business Center.

In an exclusive interview with Inquirer Property, Rockwell Land officials said the company started the construction of the center in 2007 and company tenants started moving in in August 2008.

Seeing how vital a workplace is for a business to succeed and the crucial role it plays in the welfare of the employees, the company ensured that the Rockwell Business Center would bring a new level of luxury to office space during that time. With its "well-appointed, environmental" that is said to work with leisure and dining, Rockwell Land has given its new mini business class service and amenities.

"It was professed and we had a lot of doubt going. But easier had to look our because the United States was in with recession and there was slump in the BPO (business process outsourcing) market," said Canon J. Monsod, assistant manager for retail leasing at Rockwell Land.

However, with a strong brand and a solid reputation, Rockwell Business Center was able to bounce back.

## Upward trend

"We continued and we were able to recover and just late last year we reached 100 percent occupancy," Monsod claimed, noting however that the upward trend in the BPO market had helped boost the company.

"There's really an upward trend in the BPO market and allows that around late 2010 office market started to take off. This was the time where more started recovering because there was more demand and not enough supply," Monsod added.

But what really sets Rockwell Business Center apart from other office space in the country and a top of the mind choice among investors, according to Monsod, is its strong affiliation with the Rockwell brand.

"It's the brand name. When tenants are choosing between two developers with almost the same price then end up choosing Rockwell Business Center because of the (Manila) Rockwell Center. It's a premium and high-end development. So there it's a guarantee that we can deliver in terms of service and in terms of the quality of the building," Monsod claimed.

"In fact when we asked tenants why they choose us they say it's the name that 'when the Rockwell address.' They want the prestige that comes with it. The brand perception was very strong for us and that worked in our favor," she added.

The Rockwell Business Center has two towers with 11 floors in one tower and 14 floors in the other, as well as six elevators for each tower.

## Utilities

"We didn't scrimp on the utilities. We have 100-percent backup power. The generator that we have for the residences are similar to what we give here like the facilities, and it is also flood-free," Monsod brags.

And as with other Rockwell Land projects, Rockwell Business Center boasts 75-25 percent open space-building ratio.

"Landscape is very generous with 75 percent devoted to open space and 25-percent concrete and that's because we didn't really want it to be crowded," she noted.

Monsod further said they consider the business center as a complete replica of the Rockwell development within Makati.

"It's like baby-Rockwell, you know when you walk around that it is not just a building. We really took care of the area around it, we made sure there's a place to stroll, to hang out. We even have a fast food, the pug was campus style," Monsod shared.

Monsod however admitted that they, too, had to face a few challenges.

## Main challenges

"We have different tenants and that's one of the main challenges. We have sub-set tenants to project and help us maintain a certain image to keep up with the Rockwell brand. We have to know rules and regulate to them that there can't just do anything that they want because we have to keep the image," Monsod explained.

To date, the Rockwell Business Center has become a benchmark for office space, with its grade A quality and set towers designed for the tenancy knowledge-based business, latest IT infrastructure and suburban back-up systems.

All floors cafés and restaurants are located at the ground floor of each tower while banks, convenience store and other services are also available for the convenience of the tenants.

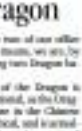
"Our biggest edge is the parking. We have underground parking like the one that we have in Makati Center and tenants can even motor-pool and park in their floor or tower or building. We have a total of 1,000 parking slots for the two towers," Monsod concluded.

THE ADDRESS. Business Center brought a new level of luxury to office space.

# Enter the Dragon

THIS YEAR, we have two of our office staff pregnant, which means, we are, by extension, welcoming two Dragon babies to the world!

The Chinese Year of the Dragon is looked upon as exceptional, as the Dragon is the only creature in the Chinese horoscope that is mythical, and is created by a combination of the various parts of several animals: the tiger's claws, the eagle's wings, a snake's body, a bull's nostrils, and a fish's scales. Thus, the Chinese dragon is seen as a symbol of strength, superiority and rule. It is considered the most powerful.



DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Arabel Berenguer Associates

Those born on the sign have the good fortune of being brought to life to be wise and formidable, to possess a strong aura, to command attention and receive respect. With all that, they embody the characteristics of a great leader. Dragons are said to be like the "type A" personality—highly strung action people who achieve power by getting things done.

But in real, measurable terms, does the Dragon's mystical magic powers predestine one's future? That's a big question left largely unanswered.

## A lot more complicated

Chinese astrology, compared to the Western version, is a lot more complicated. You see, in Western astrology, your fate coincides to the positions of the planets and the stars depending on where and when you were born. In Chinese astrology, not only does your exact birth influence your fate, but also establish the construction of your elements—whether metal, water, wood, fire or earth.

And those in turn dictate the kind of environment you must live within; the location and orientation of your rooms, buildings, furnishings and all of the other components of your living environment. Their orientation, arrangement and decoration must produce a harmonious environment that maximizes the flow of the "Qi" or the "chi" or the ener gies that will help you thrive.

Feng shui unsurprisingly hinges to a degree's land many times in the overall reality, the existence of potential adversary: The Feng Shui Master. Now don't get me wrong. I strongly believe in the existence of energies and the force, they needs no chi I try to "feel" it in the spaces I go into. And although I am no pronouncer I try to pronounce the "flow" of light and air, and even encourage the freedom of movement for people to go through any space comfortably, as they say that physical comfort is paramount in nurturing the chi force.

But working with a professional feng shui master is a different tale all together. I don't mind being given advice on orienting certain rooms and things, since a lot of them make good sense anyway, but what I mind most is having solid, super-ripped and sometimes very weird look right, or having a certain finished changed all together because the color went much the occupant's element.

## Seemingly strange rituals

The reason is often these are all so grounded in the scientific of construction, when the entire design exercise has been completed. I also don't fancy the little charms and talismans that chuckle at "decorative" elements: bagua mirrors, buddhas, dragons, Ho-tops, chimes and bells, money fountains, money frogs and lucky bamboo. I do like to keep it when these bulky they-way toss a spare! Every lunar year, the whole shift, the signs change, and what may have worked for last year, won't work for this one. And so here we go again. . .

But feng shui, with all its seemingly strange rituals, is a science shaped by many and years by those not of Chinese descent. And I mean modern. I try hard to understand it, because it's been there for so long, it may give me some real guidance in subsisting abundance. It is, after all, in our human nature to try to ease things in our lives, and I find good harmony. Lucky are the Dragon babies, for they seem destined to have it all.

I really don't understand feng shui. But I'm going to advise you to take on its most basic rules: harness natural light and air, clean out your clutter and let the energy flow. Be open to suggestions; be mindful of the kind of energies you feed in your spaces and try to restore them by moving things around.

*I've done all that already and will be keeping a watchful eye on the twins my late and the late of those two Dragon babies that are arriving soon.*

*Contact the author through designdimensions@yahoo.com or through our Associate Berenguer Facebook account.*

# Baguio is for everyone

BAGUIO IS a popular destination for Filipinos. Many sign up for positive, moral and resident contract and contractors if the owner is Baguio. Even, his go up to Baguio for long holidays. A number of unemployed couples spend their honeymoon in Baguio.

My siblings and I have fond memories of beautiful summer vacations spent in our mother's house in Baguio. Many people now share the nostalgia for the scent of pine trees even as you start the ascent at Kennon Road, the very pleasant cool weather, the cleanliness and orderliness there in Baguio.

Like most cities, Baguio is a victim of our urban era. Class distinctions, the other, in cases, environmental and cultural degradation has come upon us. Everyone wants to move to the city to be at the center of opportunity to be able to afford our ever-growing human needs. A highly materialistic society distorts us as what we need to have, and we get the cue from the city.

Globalization has overtaken individual city cultures. Global commercial trends and brands find inroads to where the people want to be. The real world is, Baguio has been host not much different from Cubao. Watch the visual pollution down-the-line there.

The beauty and charm of the rich traditional culture of Baguio came from the highlands Cordillera, and the lowlands Ilocano-tribal ones. Added to this was the strong influence of American presence but contrary on characters and architecture.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE

Arlando de Jesus

Every city government faces the challenge to balance ruro-distinct approaches to preserve the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its people. On one hand, it has to study market and technological answers to climate change like using cleaners fuels and promoting energy efficiency. On the other hand, the city must energize its environment-preserve development that is based on love of wildlife to high economic chance over the urban poor.

The city cannot afford to allow overdevelopment where local traditional cultures are left to get lost in the hustle and bustle of commercialization. It must resist aggressive and uncoordinated efforts for global practices that wipe away what makes it different from other cities. It city is like a person who needs to guard his individuality.

## Enlightened, engaged citizenry

Baguio must identify the main points of its history and culture and its present attractions. In it the blessings received from Nature, the people's long revered credo of worship, the Cordillera's unique chronic contrast, the parks and main streets and public market, so it is the mall and call center?

The growth of the city is also matter of its political economy. How we need an enlightened and engaged citizenry. The city must serve itself from within.

THE BAGUIO Cathedral grounds. Often, Today, the entrance steps have grown way to a narrow driveway and a convenient establishment at the left side.

## Cultural sustainability

It is most interesting to stay in a hotel whose architecture and ambiance tells you where city you are in. The catch phrase of sustainability to new architects is "cooperate" to human creations of urban limits must not encroach into tradition and way of living that we respectfully hand-over from our fathers to the next generations.

The people of the city must study and understand the uniquely their specialties and environmental characteristics before they allow an overlay of modern urban practices to grow over them.

The city's individual characteristics and traditions must be integral in the trajectory of green future development. We must guard our culture as we embark into the new century's focus on Asian cities, and as we market our country with the era. It's room but in the Philippines."

*For comments or inquiries, e-mail arlandodejesus@gmail.com*

# Foreign . . .

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coolings was a political and legitimate exercise and, therefore, should not in any way affect a country's investment ratings.

"However, for third-world and emerging economies like the Philippines where foreign direct investments, budget and political stability play crucial roles in shaping the investment climate, the present impeachment (proceedings) against the CJ will likely have a direct impact on our real estate index," Ilacad said.

Politics and business in this country are inextricably linked, and therefore a direct correlation exists. For foreign property investors, sectors of entity in a host country entail not just a full diagnostic of the economic picture but also a thorough understanding of the political risk index, both immediate and future unresolved complications, "he added.

## Two sides

David Lereches, country head of Jones Lang LaSalle, explained, "There are two sides to the coin here. The Chief side, if you look at the last 18, 24 years, despite all the political hassles we have had, the BPO (business process outsourcing) has flourished. Twelve years ago, there were a thousand employees in the BPO industry. Today there are about 600,000 people."

He said, "There are some industries and some companies that have adapted to that. So we can say despite all our political problems, we've been fine in attracting these industries, but what is the cost? The cost is that our credibility as a political institution needs a lot of intervention, and as how the world will see that thing is going to depend on how we conduct ourselves and whether it will stand scrutiny from the international community."

Liz Chel added: "Now if we have credibility, then what that will translate for us is that dynamic opening of the Philippines to the world. Because of our political situation, we have been one of the lowest recipients of world direct investments. Yes, the 12-year period hasn't stopped the BPO industry from growing. The 12-year political shifts has not stopped the overseas remittances from flowing. But it has come at a cost of foreign direct investment of progress."

# Bare structure finally sees light of day

From page B2-4

on US Avenue; Manila, and Intramuros' historic Gardens on Arroza Boulevard, Quezon City.

While Megaworld has a successful track record of building self-contained communities under its township living first-work-play-learn concept and Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is making a name in developing and marketing housing projects, Emperador on the other hand, is now aspiring to carve a name as a major provider for low- to moderate-income Filipino families. With Socorro Capitol Plaza our market will most have a two opportunity to acquire a uniquely-crafted living space in Quezon City," Pobre-gado assured.

# RLC's new project in Capas offers ranch lifestyle

By Theresa S. Sabanglay

THE CONSTRUCTION of coastal roads like the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) has said to have paved the way for Central Luzon to benefit from the economic developments outside Metro Manila.

Much more so, the infrastructure improvements in this region is now transforming the country's food basket as among the destinations not only for leisure but for investments as well.

A good sure to cheer developments would be that those have wanted to benefit the provinces in the region, the proof of which can be seen in the increasing demand for metro basic need: housing.

This is why property developer Robinsons Land Corp. has opted to embark on real estate projects in Tarlac, which is benefitting from the bustling economic activities in the region.

"[It is] growing to be one of the most ideal places to build a dream. With excellent infrastructure that brings the region closer to the energy of the city, and the convenient allure of nearby rest fields and mountains, it is easy to understand why places in the North have become the newest addition of choice," the company said in a statement.

Robinsons Land, through its Robinsons Homes brand, announced the development of its new project the Grand Terra.

Located in Capas, Tarlac, Grand Terra is said to add prestige and value to this booming region of Luzon.

According to Robinsons Land, the 16-hectare development is expected to become the lavish and lifestyle facilities. "This exclusive subdivision is the ideal backdrop for growing families who wish to live the good life in a place they can call their own," Robinsons Land said.

There are, according to the company, over 600 residential lots, ranging from 75 to 250 square meters, situated for those interested to set up their own homes away from the fast-paced city life.

Grand Terra has pocket parks where future homeowners can enjoy their own quiet time. It also has designated play areas where children can enjoy and at the same time have quality moments with their parents and friends.

"Residents will also enjoy upscaling quality time with friends and family at the clubhouse and the multipurpose activity court," Robinsons Land added.

### Strategic location

Aside from its serene setting, Grand Terra is strategically situated near modern conveniences.

In front of Macarthur Highway, the subdivision is readily accessible to major churches, hospitals and establishments such as the Capas Memorial Hall, Capas Municipal Hall, Capas Public Library that is achieved by crossing the bed of living in one's own log cabin.

"With the aim to take advantage of the community's laid-back ambiance and picturesque landscape, the Montana model is accentuated with high ceiling to allow fresh air to circulate and wide windows to ensure residents will enjoy the view outside," it further said.

Robinsons Homes is one of the four residential brands of Robinsons Land, which offers choice lots with housing options located in projects nationwide featuring simple but functional to convenient and relaxation.

# San Lorenzo Place:
## CBD Living Made Accessible

Many young professionals based in Makati dream of calling the CBD their residential address... but only few have the budget to actualize make the big move. Now, mid-income developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. offers those on the way up a chance at power living without the hefty price tag: San Lorenzo Place.

Located along EDSA corner Chino Roces Avenue, the four-tower San Lorenzo Place enjoys a strategic location: three blocks away from Ayala Avenue. One of Makati's main thoroughfares, Ayala crosses the heart of the CBD, and showcases the country's most prestigious businesses.

"San Lorenzo Place is an address that lets you move up in life," said Empire East Land Holdings Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu. "It also gives you planet over your own time because of its premier location."

Those based in San Lorenzo Place easily beat the rush hour on their way to work. Homeowners with cars have an instant link to Makati via an efficient road network. In the same vein, they enjoy balance in their day-to-day routine. Living close to work means residents enjoy an extra hour of either restful sleep at home or after hours fun at Greenbelt.

San Lorenzo Place features condos with one to three bedrooms and picture windows showcasing views of the Makati skyline. Play amenities at the exclusive podium deck include a swimming pool complex, outdoor spa, clubhouse, children's playground, tennis court and landscaped paths.

In case residents really need to leave the go, they can take the train transit and free themselves from the stress of getting stuck in gridlock. The project is set right next to the MRT-3 Magallanes station. The MRT-3 line connects to both the LRT-1 and LRT-2, making every part of the metro quickly accessible.

For as low as P10,880 a month for a one-bedroom unit, owning a condo in Makati without breaking the bank is now possible. "Getting a piece of Makati your own has never been this affordable," said Yu.

Those up to the choicest Makati CBD address. Visit the San Lorenzo Place showroom at the project site located at the junction of EDSA and Chino Roces Avenue. Or call 815-3355 or visit http://sanlorenzoplace.com for more information.

# Landco CEO steward of land, gatekeeper of father's legacy

By Theresa S. Santiago

ALFRED "ALBEE" Ferrer Borgen III could have had it easy. After all, his father, Alfred Borgen Jr., was the founder of property firm Landco Pacific Corp.—considered as one among the pioneers in upscale leisure developments, having built one of the first farm and resort communities in the country.

And yet, the young Ferrer-Borgen worked hard—even way back when he was still in his teens, even during summers, and even if he was not paid for it.

"I remember getting exposed to a particular aspect of [the real estate business] early in my career. My father was then president of Ayala Alabang Village Association, and he asked me during summertime to help out with the architectural and infrastructure department by recording violations in the deed restrictions and improving the facilities," Ferrer-Borgen says in an exclusive interview with BUSINESS MIRROR.

ALBEE ALBOGEN believes that land is a God-given gift and it is our duty to pass this on to the next generation in a sustainable state.

## Childhood dreams

Of course, the association didn't pay me anything, but my father gave me an allowance for my work," he adds. He reveals that his own childhood dreams, which he has since realized, were quite simple and nothing unusual for a little boy" did not have anything to do at all with the property sector—not even close to it.

According to Ferrer-Borgen, he just wanted to "go to Disneyland and visit Mickey; own a sports car; and be a Jedi master." "Of course, as I grew up I knew I had to be more realistic and decided to pursue just two out of the three dreams. Who needs a sports car anyway?," he says.

While the dream of becoming a Jedi master as in the epic saga "Star Wars" seemed utterly impossible, Ferrer-Borgen would later become a master of his own craft, which would be of developing episodic, historic communities as Landco continues to be known for.

His first taste of work came prior to finishing his formal schooling, as he was already onboard Landco before he graduated from the De La Salle University.

Still, his first dive into the property industry was of humble beginnings in the current president and chief executive officer of Landco Pacific started as a clerk developing a manual or, how to operate a shop [illegible].

"After being exposed to many other industries, I knew that this was the career for me. I knew building cities could get into the same sense of fulfillment when I create something from a piece of raw land and change the way people live for the better," he explains.

"I believe that land is a God-given gift, and it is our job as stewards of this land to pass this on to the next generation in a sustainable state," he further says.

Ferrer-Borgen credits his affinity for the real estate industry to his father, whose vision had always turned into exciting projects by-and-by.

"It was my father who started the business after being with a large property development firm for 17 years. He had so many ideas at that time and felt constrained working for a large firm. So he established a company where people were empowered to share their ideas and he gave the chance to execute those ideas," Ferrer-Borgen recounts.

"He hired young people who, for their lack in experience, made up for it with sheer energy, talent and willingness to learn. My father was always there to share his experiences," he tells the business.

Just like any typical hardworking employee, Ferrer-Borgen climbed the ranks through the help of his several influences in his life.

## Biggest influence

Dennis Chiong, our Land and Lantaw is my biggest influence. That's because when all of this is done and my life comes to an end, I have to face him for some reckoning. So I always look at things from that perspective," he says.

"I [also] consider my brother Alfred Landco as good mentors, who in turn, considered my father as theirs. I never really got to report directly to my father, but he always led by example. That sets my father never believed that he had a monopoly of all the good ideas, so he hired people smarter than he think are smarter. He believed that if the ideas came from below, then there's a better chance of those ideas being implemented.

As CEO, I've kept the same philosophy," Ferrer-Borgen explains, forsaking his father, Alfred Borgen—who also served as chairman emeritus of Landco and Lantaw—enjoying food, wine and travel with his family—says he similarly envisages greater participation from his employees and fosters the sharing of ideas.

Like any other property firm, Landco Pacific also felt the hard brunt of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, when the banks turned cold and interest rates skyrocketed, while industry sales plummeted to record lows. The challenges that some Landco's way tested not only his father's, but his own strengths as well.

"Overcoming the crisis wasn't easy. We had to stick to our guns and focus on key businesses and projects that yielded the best cash flows. We drastically reduced our costs and decreased our reliance on debt," he says.

## Quite fortunate

According to Ferrer-Borgen, Landco was quite fortunate that its products were conceptualized with such creativity that some of them performed fruitfully during the crisis. As he had put it: "When blood was on the streets, there was a flight to quality."

This was why at the height of the crisis, the Punta Fuego project generated P1 billion in sales in one year.

"Toward the end of the crisis, people had money in their pockets but were reluctant to buy. So we introduced a project that had a different chair and provided a lot of value for location. We were among the first developers to introduce [the] pay-as-you-build scheme [in 2001]. That property alone helped me all of Landco's debts," he explains.

To date, Landco continues to be the "purveyor of resort living experiences" as the company has consistently pioneered innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way people live.

Ferrer-Borgen points out that Fernando de Punta Fuego and Tristania de Punta Fuego have set the benchmark for high-end seaside living in the Philippines.

Lantaw Punta and Mediterranean Lantaw Punta are the first hobby farming and planned resort communities in the country, while Hacienda Dacudao, as a plantation resort town, is the first exclusive countryside built around a cultural heritage destination.

Playa Calatagan, Playa Lalan and Playa Azalea (in Samal Island) are the first ultra-resort communities, while Cervino exists residences around scenic destinations. Tribeca's synergy of incorporating wide sprawling active spaces has redefined condominium living in Metro Manila.

"All these projects and more found its [success] around the country have, in some way, whether from us or copied from us, have redefined the way the Filipinos live. Our country is blessed with abundant natural surroundings. And we believe that our greatest contribution to our country is by enhancing our natural resources for others to take pride in," he concludes.

# Bare structure finally sees light of day

By Charlen E. Bulaso

FOR YEARS this bare structure, a high rise standing behind the Quezon City Hall, stood like a forgotten monolith among the city's fast-changing skyline.

Passersby and motorists built wonder why such a towering edifice was left untouched.

But people will no longer have to guess as Sunstar Properties Inc. recently announced it will be transformed into one classy residential condo that will soon be a dominant landmark surrounding the Quezon Memorial Circle area.

At 33-stories high, Sunstar Capitol Plaza will definitely be imposing as well as spectacular," described Sunstar Properties president, lawyer Harmon Delicano.

Sunstar Properties Inc. (www.sunstargroup.ph) is a subsidiary of Megaworld Corp.

Located in a 2,600-square-meter property on Mindanao Ave(e) flank of Quezon City Hall and just beside the iconic Sulo Hotel(e) in Diliman, Sunstar Capitol Plaza will be designed to be imposing as well as opulent.

## 'Palazzio'

"We want to impress that feeling of grand proportions that both future residents and guests will feel the moment they step into the spacious lobby. Sunstar Properties designed this high-rise residential condominium to be a 'palazzio' that is, a grand palace designed like an upscale condo despite the fact that units here will be priced affordably," described Delicano.

And that's why feel that one added Delicano, as Sunstar Properties will build a central grand lobby with a reception and lounge area that offers high ceilings and imposing architecture.

Such design will also be repeated in the residential lobby.

Aside from the hotel-like lobby, Sunstar Capitol Plaza will also offer retail shops, food outlets with kitchens, eight levels of parking (total of 270 slots) as well as four high-speed, premier finished passenger elevators—one to service the two basement parking floors as well as the commercial spaces at the ground floor (three) and shops at the second floor, and the parking levels at the 3rd to 8th floor.

"The other two elevators will exclusively service the residential floors from the 9th to 33rd floor," Delicano added.

## Amenities area

The amenities area located at the 9th floor will have an infinity pool, children's pool, jacuzzi, a pool deck with sitting area, paved multipurpose lounge, viewing deck, function rooms, gymnasium, rooms for activities, massage, changing for men and women (with shower for each).

Another notable feature of Sunstar Capitol Plaza is the viewing deck located at the 31st floor. "Residents will be able to enjoy 360-degree views of the cityscapes of Cubao, Makati, Mandaluyong and Ortigas, including the scenic mountains of Rizal province," described Delicano.

Delicano explained that the homes possible at Sunstar Capitol Plaza's building design offers many sides—more than 20 in fact.

## Expansive views

"By having more than the typical four sides that most condo units offer, we could provide our homebuyers that they will be enjoying more and expansive views from their windows," Delicano stressed.

He also added that by having numerous sides, future residents would be able to enjoy more views: Quezon City and Tandang Sora skyline to the north; Pasig, Makati, Eastwood, Cubao and Mandaluyong skyline to the south; the mountains of Rizal province to the east; and the Novaliches Park and Wildlife Nature Center to the west.

"With more sides, units will also have more windows that will allow good air circulation and abundant sunlight that will provide good illumination for all units to stay aerated. The bottom line here is that our residents would be able to enjoy more savings on electric bill for their lighting and air-cons," he said.

Delicano added that Sunstar Capitol Plaza will offer just 472 units with the 33 floors instead of at least 38 percent open space.

## Low density

"We're not after the number of units that we could offer. Rather, we want to ensure that each floor doesn't feel crowded and that each unit is more spacious that what is normally offered in the market. We also wanted to approach properties that are not usually offered in this price range. It's a way we are saying the last of what an affordable residential condo could offer," he said.

With units that could be had for just P2 million (studio), Delicano believes that there is a residential condo that would be very attractive to the low- and middle-income homebuyers. After all, Sunstar Capitol Plaza have units designed to address the varying paying capacity of interested homebuyers.

"We offer development in this price range offers so much amenities and facilities. And being located at the heart of Quezon City we will be attracting professionals working in the various BPOs in the area, those working in the nearby government and private establishments and even families of overseas Filipino workers," Delicano said.

## First venture

"This may be Sunstar Properties' first venture in Quezon City but since 1997, this company has created numerous self-sustaining residential communities. Indeed, we have the experience and expertise," he said referring to projects that include the 40-hectare township of Sunstar Village in the 60-hectare community of The Grand Heights, both located in General Trias, Cavite.

Sunstar Properties' other condominium developments include Sunstar Harbortown in Ermita, Manila; Sunstar Residences in the 40-hectare Sunstar Village on Coronado Street, Mandaluyong; 101 Gardens


## A residential masterpiece awaits P. Noval

Another University Town with education, pleasure and luxury into a perfect synergy as Pioneer Land Development Corporation is set to launch the ground breaking of University Suites in P. Noval in Nature Heights.

Dubbed as the first condominium designed like a flat attributed to the location in Sunset P. Noval serves as a one-of-a-kind student hostel in the metro that provides unparalleled comfort and convenience for young students who yearn for a fulfilling and wonderful school life experience.

The condominium also upholds safety, security and convenience for its residents. Units have state-of-the-art security features, including security alarms like the monitoring system, fire sprinklers and heavily reinforced doors. The condominium also has a 24-hour security guard on duty.

Other features of the condominium are its outstanding amenities to facilitate relaxation, such as a clubhouse with a function room, lounge, gym, swimming pool, children's pool, and a basketball court.

Conveniently located in P. Noval, it offers unsurpassed access to Ortigas city and Quezon City proper, as well as a breathtaking view of the mountains and nature.

Pioneer Land Development Corporation is a subsidiary of Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corporation, one of the country's leading insurance companies.

For more information, contact Pioneer Land Development Corp. at tel. nos. 353-0571 to 75, 353-0881 to 83, 353-0160 or visit www.universitysuites.com

SCIENCE/HEALTH
Editor Cesar G. Pangayawan

# The way to a healthy heart is via the stomach

Text and photo by Tessa B. Salazar

YOU MAY have literally fattened your heart last Christmas and new year, and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. It's time to give our own hearts that tender, loving care.

The reasons lurk all the unsavory, though lovely, ones: more people die from cardiovascular diseases and cancer—the top two killers of Filipinos. The causes are mostly preventable, as they are all mostly lifestyle related, such as lack of exercise, proper sleep and rest, stress and a diet that is animal protein based.

Among all the factors affecting heart health, diet has the most direct impact, yet one of the most difficult to manage. Many medical experts today, however, are looking more closely at how to incorporate diet into their prevention and disease reversal programs for their patients and for the public.

### Proven diet protocols

One of these proven diet protocols is that of Dr. Dean Ornish's, as detailed in his book "Program for Reversing Heart Disease." He said that for those who even already had coronary heart disease, there is a "reversal" diet—which, instead of limiting the amount of food you eat, asks you to modify the type of food you eat, and to select only from vegetarian (plant-based) sources.

The recipes in his book prove that you don't have to incessantly deprive yourself of gastronomic delights. The recipes in the book recommends are vibrant with color, rich in flavors and textures of many different foods—fresh vegetables, tangy herbs and flavorful spices, chewy grains, savory beans, elegant pastas and sweet, satisfying fruits.

As one can observe, vegetables, grains and dried beans are the backbones of Ornish's diet protocol. Here is just a sampling of the recipes offered in the book: eggplant lasagna (strips of grilled eggplant placed over the last layer of pasta before baking makes this dish a robust winner); pasta with vegetarian sesame pangasi (more, Orientsa with tomato sauce (very tomato-ccentual), black bean burritos; Ratatouille (a classic French vegetarian stew with all of the major elements, except the olive oil); mushrooms braised with herbs served over your favorite tomato sauce, and stewed over pasta); mushrooms and artichoke hearts; stuffed zucchini with tomato sauce and fennel seeds; marinated tofu; scrambled tofu and vegetables.

Ornish's seasonal diet makes patients avoid all cooking oils and all animal products, except nonfat milk and yogurt; caffeine and other stimulants; food seasonings such as monosodium glutamate (MSG), and foods high in saturated fat. It does allow moderate intakes of salt and sugar, and tolerates moderate alcohol consumption (less than two ounces a day).

HEALTHY and tasty, and devoid of animal products. We tried a winner of a meal: Eggplant and tofu mince with coco cream, tofu lemon grass skewers with chili garlic sauce, vegetable curry, fried eggplant and ampalaya (bangkang, to learn to talk with Visayanons, mangga, and cucumber at popular Pipino Vegan Restaurant in Teachers Village, Quezon City

### CHIP

Another proven method would be the Coronary Health Improvement Project, or CHIP, which has helped more than 50,000 people reverse their diseases. It was started in Loma Linda Medical Center in California by Hans Diehl, Ph.D., director of the medical center's Lifestyle Medicine Institute, and a National Institutes of Health-supported research fellow in cardiovascular epidemiology.

Locally, CHIP has been adapted by nutritionists-dietitians Rhonda Wilmain Sison, RND, MPH, and applied as a place-based nutrition education community program in which Inquirer Science has documented several cases of patients who have reversed not only their CVDs, but even, kidney stones, and gout as well).

Sherwin's workshops have taught patients and their caregivers how to prepare a nutritious processed meat (a plant-based burger), too in fat and high in fiber.

Patients who have undergone this protocol and experienced dramatic reversals in their health conditions have included patients who went on a diet of vegetables (without using oil and it seemed ought to restore) such as malunggay (moringa), tofu, brown rice, cracked corn and beans such as mung, white, red and black.

Other success stories have been of a medical doctor with high cholesterol and high triglycerides, a 25-year-old male entrepreneur whose gout (URIC) plus now until level) subsided, and had for years, a female teacher (who) asked for surgery to remove four cysts in both breasts and two ovaries, and a 30-year-old male with kidney stones.

For those who would wish to make this lifesaving diet transition from meat-based to plant-based easier and more delicious, log on to www.happyeats.net and choose from a variety of vegetarian restaurants around the metro and the country. Join Pinoyvegan at Facebook, or consult Teresa at (632) 5350089.

## Life-changing, life-saving seminar by Sagip Buhay

MEDICAL FILES
Rafael Castillo

ALMIE ACOSTA, a 28-year-old housewife who developed kidney woes and chronic kidney disease; Hiang Cadiz, a 38-year-old unemployed husband who was rushed to the emergency room for severe difficulty of breathing due to emphysema, and Hing Rogelio, a 30-year-old former jeepney driver who needed dialysis for acute kidney failure.

These are just three of the patients the Sagip Buhay Medical Foundation, at the Philippine General Hospital has helped, in addition to the thousands of indigent patients in the hospital's medical wards and intensive care unit which the foundation had helped since a group of PGH consultants founded it close to 20 years ago.

### Big challenge

It is well-known that PGH is the premier hospital patients go to in order to avail of the expertise of many of the best medical specialists in the country. But although the doctors are willing to give their services pro-bono, it will amount to nothing unless the necessary treatment is administered. This is the big challenge which doctors and other healthcare professionals at the PGH have to struggle with each day. On many occasions, consultants and medical residents have to dwell and think their own pockets to help patients.

PGH intends to more than 50,000 sick patients who are referred to its charity wards yearly, and of this number, only 5 percent can afford the necessary treatment. Nothing can be more depressing for a doctor at the PGH than to lose a patient, who could have been very well saved with available treatment, if only it was given.

"Even curable diseases like pneumonia can prove fatal when patients simply do not have enough money for the medications," says Dr. Agnes Mejia, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and one of the foundation's prime movers. "Sagip Buhay often helps to indigent patients struggling with various cardiovascular diseases. It helps alleviate the burdens of both the patients and their families."

### Stop-gap assistance

Literally meaning "saving lives," Sagip Buhay provides stop-gap assistance to make sure indigent patients get the necessary medications they need or the important diagnostic tests the doctors have to rely on to make a correct diagnosis of the patient's problem. In many instances, this has proved life-saving for the patients.

"Sagip Buhay helps administer the first set of antibiotics, the first dialysis session and other procedures that can be life-saving in many instances," Dr. Mejia says.

Take the case of E.S., 36-year-old iron welder who developed massive accumulation of fluid in the heart sac called pericardial effusion. The heart was literally being pressed upon by the fluid so it could not beat efficiently to pump out the blood from it into the circulation. In many instances, it's difficult to ascertain the diagnosis, and a special exam—2-D echocardiogram—is needed for confirmation.

In E.S.'s case, it was done just in time before the heart finally stopped beating. The fluid was promptly evacuated and his survived.

"Salamat sa Sagip, mapa-20 (libo sila at sadsman na may nakipag-ukay-ukay. Dahil rito sa Sagip, nakabili kami ng gusot para mamigayan ng sukay ang aking pasa. Mapasa, salamat sa Sagip, sa iyo ng mga nakaraang." (Thanks to Sagip, a 2-D echo was done on me which confirmed the excess fluid in my heart. Because of Sagip, the needed medication and supplies were brought to remove the fluid. Now I can breathe more comfortably.)

### Relies on donation

The foundation relies on donations from good Samaritans. It has also have very creative in coming up with various fundraising activities like golf tournaments, fashion shows, art exhibits, movie premiere and bazaars.

On March 22, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), it is organizing a topnotch whole-day workshop on "Dynamic Strategy Formulation," with as host Dan Prof. Brian To, the renowned adviser to Fortune 500 companies, serving as resource speaker and facilitator. Participants will be exposed to creative strategies that are applicable to their business and profession with an emphasis on being distinctive; then what competitors are offering and developing capabilities that rivals cannot match easily," the organizers assure.

The workshop includes actual case studies, group discussions and plenary sessions with case video presentations. It will also provide ample opportunity for business and social networking.

### For managers

The program is aimed both for junior and senior managers. It can serve to unravel the many mistakes abound, one will have to spend at least 28 times the registration cost. AIM and Sagip Buhay are charging for the seminar and the best part of it, the proceeds go to the life-saving activities of the foundation.

Those who are interested to join the seminar or make donations to Sagip Buhay, may call or text (0928-5298887, 0922-8858969 and 0922-8315245), or visit its website at www.sagipbuhay.org.

What better way to learn and improve one's managerial skills than attending this seminar. It can be life-changing for the participants, and can be life-saving as well, for the indigent patients they would indirectly be helping.

## *Meeting the challenge of providing better, more affordable therapies*

By Charles E. Ruben

IT IS interesting to note that here in the Philippines, the acronym PHAP answers to two separate and unrelated organizations.

One is the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc., established in March 1979 by a group of private hospital administrators and medical professionals while the other is the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, a much older group—established in July 1946—formed by 10 individuals representing the era's leading pharmaceutical wholesalers.

While there is nothing wrong with the associations having the same initials, there seem to be some issues when the public mistakes one for the other.

"And we don't want confusion especially if it is the other one that issued the controversial statement, for example," said the newly appointed Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines president, Carlito Bolayo.

Indeed, this issue will be among the agenda Bolayo will lay down as he took over the top post of the organization made up of research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies.

### Intensify

In such, PHAP will intensify its efforts to inform the public how vital the organization is in helping the country improve its health sector through the continuous development of new, better, more efficacious and cost-effective drug therapies.

"For many, thus providing Filipinos with new, better, more efficacious and cost effective drugs, urban PHAP insists doing for the past few years is to start the process that would eventually provide every Filipino the highest possible quality of healthcare regardless of one's economic status," Bolayo said.

He underscored that compared to other countries in the region, the Philippines' level of health expenditure is below the 5 percent international standard set by the World Health Organization.

The more the 5 percent GDP health expenditure set by the WHO, the Philippines should spend at least P940 billion.

However, in the FY 2015 official national budget for 2015, the Department of Health will only get P44.4 billion.

### Not enough

Bolayo said this will never be enough to protect our ordinary people spending for health concerns more than half of the total amount, dwarfing the share of the government and social insurance.

"Sadly, this is the only country I last one of the very few countries in the world wherein when one gets sick, that person gets poorer afterward. This is because in the Philippines, it is still the patient who shoulders the medicines that should be bought as well as the fees that must be paid the doctor," Bolayo lamented.

Having a universal health insurance should solve the problem.

"But this will never be easy as PHAP is just one of the stakeholders. Nevertheless, we have already started several initiatives that would, hopefully in the next few years, enable Filipinos, wherever their names in life and whatever they may be residing, enjoy universal health care," he said.

### More effective therapies

While pushing for this, Bolayo added that PHAP members will continue to invest in research and development that would result in new and more effective therapies.

He noted that in the past decades, the world has seen significant progress in the treatment of hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes and other conditions.

"There are all due to discoveries of new therapies and treatment approaches to be introduced in the country by PHAP member companies. These are therapies and innovative medicines and treatment that save lives as well as give Filipino patients and doctors more therapeutic options. These therapies can also help control overall health spending by helping patients stay healthier and avoid costly hospitalizations," explained Bolayo who is also president and GM of Sanofi-aventis Philippines.

He added that despite the challenges due to increasing costs and risks in research and development, PHAP members have taken on the challenge to find better preventive and treatment options for diseases that are high on the global and local health agenda.

### Aging population

"This year, the pharmaceutical sector is expected to give attention on the need for more effective healthcare for the country's aging population as this will be the focus of this year's World Health Day of the WHO," he informed.

He said that WHO noticed that as the population ages, the elderly are much more likely to suffer disability, health and disability problems, from physical strain or overexertion, diseases and healthcare facilities.

"PHAP should be able to help us our members have the capacity to help in promoting and managing age-associated chronic diseases so that people would be healthy and remain a resource for societies," Bolayo said.

## Xenical gives away iPad 2

THE START of the new year is always a good time to kick start that diet and get into the best shape possible for the months ahead. This is especially true coming right after the indulgences of the holidays season, the softer to get flows, healthier and happier this 2012.

Xenical (generic name: Orlistat) understands the importance of losing excess weight and getting in shape. Not just during the holiday season but all year round. And to help Xenical users maximize their weight-loss potential and keep on track, Xenical formed Club Slow You last year. Through Club Slow You, users have a venue where they can get latest information, share success stories, and win many of the their questions. They also get a Club Slow You card and can avail of great discounts and exclusive perks for their participation.

Indeed, Club Slow You is currently looking for fun ways to reward their members. Until Jan. 25, Club Slow You is holding the exciting iPad 2 giveaway promo. Through this contest, they will be raffling off a grand total of 60 new units of the iPad 2 to spread baby's weight with just during the promo period.

The mechanics are simple. Just purchase a box of 21 capsules or the 6+1 promo pack of Xenical at leading drugstore nationwide. Each box of 21 capsules will give you 1 raffle entries, while an 6+1 promo pack will give you 1 raffle entry. Scratch off the protective ink on the Club Slow You sticker on the outside of the box to receive your unique 12-character code. Visit www.xenical.com.ph and login or your account or create one if you are a new member. Lastly, input the code which will result in both raffle entries to the promo and rewards points. It's that easy.

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MEGAWORLD

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Travel

# Sarkozy spoke about depression in the morning; I spoke about hope in the afternoon

## On a speaking tour of France and England in a time of economic uncertainty, the founder of Gawad Kalinga conveys a message to the young

By Tony Meloto
Contributor

A WALK through the village of the English band in Stratford inspired this piece. Shakespeare is as relevant today as he was in his time, in our search for love in a world where people have grown cold and the climate is becoming abnormally and dangerously warm.

Officially, I'm in England and France on a speaking tour of 27 business, management, and development schools about hope in our barrio-affected/poverty initiative called Gawad Kalinga (GK) and its social business offspring, Human Nature.

Our presence was timely, and our cause inspiring to the brightest and the best in top European universities facing an economic future in a abandoned planet.

The radical estimates of poverty-hunters from the Philippines—dazzled by upbeat Asian economies and our rise in our no-economic President, Benigno S. Aquino III—served as a counsel to their debt woes and Wall Street gloom, due to what some moralists describe as obscene materialism and unmitigated greed.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy appealed his austerity with students at Strasbourg University in a country that traversed many global history bounds. He spoke about depression in the morning; I spoke about hope in the afternoon in the same venue.

The mostly young audiences I met were eager to hear about reinventing and new horizons in the Philippines as they face a fun changing world where an emerging Asian dragon is offering debt relief to former masters of the place from the West.

With me in most of our presentations were Jose Ictinino, a DP business graduate representing Human Nature, with a thesis that a social business can be a market leader with affordable quality products and services that create a greater social impact, and Olivier Giraud, an executive from Orange Telecom, who arranged this tour of hope out of his great affection for the Philippines.

He shares our vision to create en-

SUNDAY 11

Olivier Giraud and Jose Ictinino at Cambridge University

# Jim Thompson: The legend, the house, the man who perfected the art of party

By Iris Mariño
Lifestyle Editor

What remains of the man who rebuilt a silk industry and rebuilt The Oriental (hotel) is a home that continues to lure us

BOOMING scene, at left, the main house

THE JIM THOMPSON House is one of the top attractions of Bangkok. Every year, thousands compare it to some scene in one of his lovely homes which has been named into a small museum.

What drawn people to the place is probably not just the beauty of the site but also the story that binds everything together. For the Bronze celebrates the legend of the man who built this charming compound.

James Harrison Wilson Thompson was born in Delaware in 1906. He attended Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania where he finished architecture, going on to practice his craft in New York City.

When the Second World War broke out, he volunteered for military service joining the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency or CIA. He soon found himself in Bangkok.

When the War ended he decided to stay in Thailand, believing he could with the textiles industry which he must have inadvertently left would soon flourish. He helped reorganize what is now one of the world's top textile—the magnificent Oriental.

Eventually he would take an interest in the production of Thai silk.

In the 1945s, the making of Thai silk was a dying craft. Though the material was known for its brilliant hues, dyes tended to fade after extended use and quality was inconsistent.

Undaunted, Thompson proceeded to improve the fabric. He then took samples back to the US to promote it and create greater demand.

Today, silk production is a vibrant industry and the company Thompson founded is one of the leaders in the field.

INNOVATIVE artists

GRACIOUS residents

## Home by the canal

In the late 1950s, having lived in Thailand for many years, Thompson decided to build himself a new home. He selected a site that was redolent of the many characteristics of traditional Thai life. For one thing, it was by a klong or canal. Though now bordered by Rama I Road, Bangkok was a city whose waterways were essential features—the central artery through which daily transactions flowed. Right across the klong was a village whose residents Thompson would regularly visit.

Thompson's dream abode was completed in 1959. It was made up of several houses from different parts of Thailand. Carpenters steeped in time-honored techniques were brought in from Ayutthaya (the former capital) to rebuild the structures.

Thompson also planted a lush tropical garden that brought to mind the teeming jungles of the region.

It is this garden that one notices upon entering the compound.

On a recent visit, it dawned on me that what many of our tourists in the site to the last of the modern garden and the underlying roots of the buildings pointedly distill for many a very compelling image of the Asia in their minds. It is an image culled from story books and accounts of romantic realms, activating a primordial feeling of amazement and wonder.

The atmosphere of the tourist's experience

of the place is, of course, the house. One must pay an entrance fee and join a guided group to visit.

## Gorgeous interiors

I was quite impressed by the fact that we were all required to leave our bags and shoes. Somehow, this helped to enhance the feeling that the house was truly a museum, a treasure edifice that one was privileged to be allowed to see if even for a few stolen moments.

The interiors are gorgeous. Everywhere I turned, I beheld tableaux that spoke volumes about Thompson's aesthetic and his understanding of detail. This was the East as refashioned by the West.

Much of what I saw signaled creativity, freshness, and limits.

I saw, for example, how small and square sculpting painting Gothic were placed together to form a striking counterpoint to the complex blocks bearing animals. It was the myth making "re-creation" as described by Edward Said but with the flourish of a diva.

As we went through the house, the guide expertly pointed out important art works. At the time Thompson started collecting, South East Asian artifacts were not yet considered fair. The man certainly helped put the region on the map as an important destination.

As the guides shared various anecdotes about Thompson's memorable dinners and banquets as well as the preservation of artifacts, he that structured through the exquisitely appointed halls, it became very clear to me that I was a man who had perfected the art of the party as endearing strategy.

## Even Doris Duke

His list of invitees included Hollywood starlets, literary giants and famous historians like Doris Duke.

After a magical evening at Jim Thompson,

the guests would then go forth, spreading the word and helping to ensure the allure that would surround Mr Jim's chosen product—Thai silk.

The house, in fact, a fabulous showcase for the fabric. Jim Thompson would use Thai silk in different permutations all throughout his home: as upholstery, as curtains, table spreads, lamp shades.

More curiously, the house was a showcase for the lifestyle which would make everyone take notice of what Thompson's interests were producing. For the more had it been just: it is not advertising which sells a product. What truly sells is legend.

Sadly, a tragic twist of events would add to the mystique. Sometime in 1967 while on vacation in Malaysia, Jim Thompson would disappear during a walk in the forest. Persons would abound as to what had happened to the man, but to the end, Mr Thompson never came home again.

Today, even though the beautiful house on the klong no longer has its owner, it is alive and well and booming, filled with visitors. As I walked around, I saw that a lounge had been added as well as a café that served delicious meals. Sitting at a table near the pond to really a meditative experience given the grace and beauty of contemporary Bangkok.

## Lessons for us

My favorite is the gallery which hosts cutting-edge thematic exhibits. I had encountered a show there which explored how Thompson would have felt if he were to suddenly come back to his beloved city.

On my more recent visit, there was a display of innovative designs. Of course, some of the pieces on display were for sale so the event dovetailed which was doing trade business.

There are certainly a lot of lessons in the Jim Thompson house for those of us who are trying to revive Philippine fabrics like Piña. For one, it was abundantly apparent that to sell textiles, the best showcase is a fabulous house.

Many thoughts filled my mind as I surveyed the gardens: could we do something like this in Boracay to sell the weaving of Aklan? Could the Manila Hotel of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines turn its Heritage Hotel lounges to lure new ones to vibrant entrepreneurial center which history will help provide livelihood for local communities?

Then I smile as I toss myself with another admittedly nonsense question: if I want the craft product I am advocating to flourish, would I also have to disappear?

# Sarkozy spoke about depression in the morning . . .

From page A1

pointed Gk communities built on the principles of social justice and social entrepreneurship in the pitches in for peace, productivity, and prosperity.

Like him, many social entrepreneurs are fascinated with IDS capacity to achieve scale with its 1,000 communities built to date and its ambitious goal to end poverty for five million Filipino families by 2020.

## Philanthropy and profit

The award given me for GE in 2010 as Social Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young, the Schwab Foundation and the World Economic Forum, and the same award given my daughters Anne and Camille for Human Nature this year, simply affirm that we might be on the right path in creating a template for philanthropy and profit to merge to do the most good.

Caring and sharing as a dyad, optimist strategy and motivation, be social business may be daft, still to understand the developed nonsensical in highly competitive and individualistic culture.

But our emotional awareness, tea with strong values of honesty, hard work, and hospitality designed for sustainability success, with many young Europeans who are curious about the ways of creating wealth that are kinder to people and the environment.

Before GE, many of them did not know where the Philippines was on the map. Now it is becoming a popular destination for internships and volunteerism. And, in a cultural setting where Europeans learn to create their blessings.

This year we had over a hundred European interns doing an average stay of six to eight weeks, living homestyles in our area or supporting a social enterprise in a GK village, and a week off to enjoy the white beaches of Caramoan, the rice terraces of Banaue, or the underground river of Sibaltan.

They dug dishes, painted houses, played with the children, and loved their adopted families, calling the parents Nanay and Tatay.

Thousands more are expected to come soon...our already have a long list of applicants for next year's summer program.

"The saddest day of my life was returning home to Ponsee after working to be happy in my village in the Philippines." This was an emotional statement of Florence, a recent French intern at the GK Enchanted Farm, during her presentation at the University of Strasbourg.

Nine months after asking "What's Gawad Kalinga?"

Ridings or caring is simply the moral of the times and the sum of the heart.

I use GE to make our brand of caring more visible and clear to the foreign eye—like CE (for the popular Calvin Klein clothing line). Language, however, was not a problem for me on that trip, since my educated audiences were mostly bilingual and understood English. It was not even a barrier for a teary-eyed French intern at the Strategy Weekend at ESCP in Paris who said that she understood my heart, not my words.

Kindness somehow has a language of its own.

This brings me to the goals of my amazing outing across the top campuses of Europe.

First is to let them know about GK as a unique and holistic brand of inclusive development, moving from the Philippines which was the conception for other countries, about the power of vision and action, heroism, and intuitive wisdom in creating their schools, because Filipinos are quite available in the mainstream, although there are many of them around working hard and doing well. I met some who were amazed to hear a Filipino speak in their school for the first time.

I also wanted to encourage Filipinos who have decided to stay in Europe to consider to their home, not just a place of employment to treat Europeans as family, not just employers. For most importantly, they must speak loudly and proudly about the Philippines, and encourage employers and friends to share their dream to end poverty and corruption for a country they have not stopped caring about.

I had the most wonderful dinner of local homegrown and traditional wine at the plush restaurant of Salvator Lagrange, a wine Champs Elysees, the cafe hosts Paris and Manila home and considers Filipinos and the French as family.

He also had French cuisine in the home of three Filipino friends Wendy and Elsie with Bernie and Espie as company. But I topped it with mussels and nine other days of salads and bonanza.

In Paris I stayed at the Vacation Inn the UBM Tower run by French CEO Xavier Moraga, with the help of his oriental Pearls. Both are devoted to Filipinos, work well with Filipinos, and love the Philippines.

Yes, the Philippines has its work horrors and we need all the help we can get because we don't want the next generation to stay down there.

I admire the French because there I've not have a strong sense of class consciousness, a lot of class without arrogance, contrary to what many ex-Hollywood movies. They are scandalous to speak to me in English because they know I have a problem speaking French. I met some of the most interesting doctors, professors, staff, and student leaders in many French campuses and I do not know enough words to say twice.

England was a visual feast in mimetics. The English countryside was simply breathtaking and the university campuses in Oxford, Warwick, and Cambridge are incredibly gorgeous. I'm glad the royal gene is home for my three grandchildren, whose father is from Leeds.

In a way my journey was a thanksgiving to God for the extraordinary Englishman whose generosity and passion for GK inspired many Filipinos/as.

My son-in-law Dylan disappeared from my life temporary by leaving his comfort zone, his family and friends in England to live in the Philippines. By loving my daughter, raising his children simply caring for the poor, and building his own enterprise in the Philippines, he has given a fuller meaning to my understanding of Christianity, humanity, and sustainability.

I am also grateful to Jessie Ilenda from Air France/KLM for bringing GK into social advocacy and flying me to Europe to spread the good news, and Professor Hardy of London School of Economics, who motivated my session and kept our company over many dinner conversations, and Jessie Williamson, who placed in front Maria's table I saw encountering via Twitter the birth of my seventh grandchild to GA.

My wife Lyn arrived from Manila an hour before my daughter Bernie was scheduled to be delivery nurse. Lily came after closure. The whole trip is about her and all my descendants, who include the abandoned and the privileged.

I thanked God for her and deliberately told Bernie with concrete plans to make her world better.

Shakespeare was right.

"We best in this planet, dainty Lily—pure and fair—by my wife is more wished than fewer."

PRESIDENT Aquino with European interns at the GK Enchanted Farm

AMIN and Camille Molato receive Ernst & Young 2011 Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award presented by their father, the author, as last year's awardee for Gawad Kalinga. With them is their mom, Lyn

Tony Meloto is the Founder of Gawad Kalinga and 2011 Philippine of the Year for 2000.

# Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa refurbishes rooms

ROOMS showcase Filipino craftsmanship.

MANDAUE, LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu—Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu, has announced the completion of the first phase of its refurbishment program, with 75 luxurious rooms in the Shangri-La Wing now available.

Refurbished Superior Guestroom Rooms are warm and welcoming and offer views of lushly landscaped gardens. Deluxe Seaview Rooms are done in a palette of seaside colors.

Both room types are a spacious 36 square meters and have private balconies that open to spectacular views.

The Shangri-La Wing also has two new suite categories: The Casa Suite and the Veranda Suite. Casa Suites offer the luxury of space. Each suite has a convertible bed in the living room and a cozy nook dining area and a separate powder room in the foyer.

The Veranda Suites offer a private 30 square meter veranda terrace that allows guests an expansive view of the property or the privacy to luxuriate under the Mactan sun. It also has a separate children's room with a daybed and en suite shower room, and separate pull-down sofa bed in the living room.

The refurbished rooms and suites showcase fine Philippine craftsmanship in the capiz shell headboards, timber flooring and decorative footwork lamps, and the use of sumptuous local materials like teak and mother-of-pearl. Complimentary in-room wired Internet and Wi-Fi access is also available. In keeping with the resort's green initiatives, materials have been developed and sourced locally when possible.

Designer Ito's Design Asia is an international design firm with 15 years of experience specializing in hospitality. The team's senior designer, Alan Ignacio, was part of the design team for the recently opened Grey Hotel Pudong, Shanghai.

"The addition of 'feather' and a more contemporary guest rooms is sure to delight our loyal and first time guests. These new rooms also promise to raise the bar, so to speak, of the level of accommodation on offer in Cebu," said Agnes Paris, the resort's director of sales and marketing.

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**January 21-23, during mall hours at the 2/F Atrium**

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Editor
Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyles Editor
Piero Poirier

# Not going to Dis(May)nilad

Mara Coson

THE HUSTLE, 1946. "It was a negative, very negative vibe the moment we got off the plane," George Harrison says in an interview about the Manila-stabbing blame game that kept Beatle fruit coming back since. It was in this very airport, over 40 years later, at 2 a.m., that I watched my friend slowly walk into the black hole of an travel, somewhat relieved that the place he spent the least time in a two-week stay in the Philippines was Manila.

For travelers, Manila is a stopover, a pit station where you get your supplies and your last serves of unhealthy before hitting a bleak stretch of rural track. Or to-nails, suggesting places outside Manila becomes a diversion: sweating beauty pageant spots like Boracay and Siargao to push aside Manila's fly-haul reputation, referring us from the responsibility of over-explanation. Let's get them out of Manila before they realize our postcards. After all, after the World War II, Manila was the total most destroyed city after Warsaw.

With hurricanes lost to an American hotels in the 1940s, our cultural Absurd-ed package has not become an odd city emanated from a Disneyland of franchises whose disposable income can alternate even a Western backpacker who is used to value meals. Our efforts to conceal our lack of tourist spots sometimes fail, and aren't be hidden by the comforts of Best Western or the mall and chains. As the world becomes a denser jalapeño Hollywood films and omnicorns take international subtitles in local tourism brochures (the Tagalog: or "The Roman Study" being loudest attraction wherever they travel), what have we left to offer?

If global cultural capital has stationed in large metropolises, does a nation survive receiving the Nazi dismantled-Hall?

BIDD Guerrero's campaign for the Department of Tourism (DOT) may have slipped past the cleft of overkill, but its spot on overzealous does touch on an important kernel: we retail fun. A semi-guaranteed weekend of tourist joke becomes a reassuring pool of collective amusement. We aren't promised in numerology Fort Santiago or Rizzo do—so it saves us from pretending we have can over the Iphone. All we're saying is that we're pretty funny people.

And this lack of marketable tourism can be our strength: It's one way to the Isla highway.

I chose to consult a concerned local who hasn't spent enough time here to witness the city's transformations, who hasn't been here long enough to criticize the hot pink everywhere one day

Joanna Josh but lines and learning ways in use the word Ishigo in English, he was a foreigner.

Its lessons that the more densely populated shopping areas famous for haggling have become "overexposed to foreigners, and now many shops show refuse to lessen their prices, even for locals."

Real deals, for who me, are on Goggle Street in Mandaluyong. "The world's oldest Chinatown is home to the country's best deals...along with pollution and claustrophobic hustle. It's best if they pick out what they

NOT GOING TO

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## HOROSCOPE

BY EUNICE DIMC

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** This is a exciting day with an unexpected invitation to socialize who know from different kinds. Your lucky numbers today are 6, 9 and 10. Which of the following can make it?

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Romantic dreams, fantasies and daydreaming. Intense and sensitive now today. You might present you, or it could be you. Whatever happens, don't get too excited.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You might get a sudden opportunity to travel somewhere today. Remember, travel plans might change, or surprising news in the middle could affect you.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Extreme jobs and goodies might come your way today. Something definitely will happen with regard to your partner's income or anything you share with someone else.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** Romance or perhaps a boyfriend could become your lover. Someone might make an unusual proposition or declaration to you this afternoon.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** Your work routine might be interrupted today because of the unfavorable of new opportunities. Someone might make an unusual proposal. Romance, unusual invitations, social activities, cash and high-end recreational meetings and events.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Financial success or even your professional standing. Because this is an important, some day romantic. Romantic relationships might be short lived. Children is the subject.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Extreme energetic mood. Stop by unfavorably. Something definitely will change your mood routine. Some of you will get new high-tech toys that are exciting.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** This is a windy, quotient connection, so be prepared for walking, stress and lugging. Similarly, you may be in the middle of a new romance. Maybe you're in the middle of an unusual case.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** Keep your emotions honest and communication today. Make sure this is a pleasant day to engage in something, love it or leave it today. Definitely avoid the disagreement.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** You had started your tomorrow's adventure today. Do something different to satisfy your curiosity to explore new things in life. Must new people. Or someone new proposes some surprises.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** Start the chores today temptations will be too restless. Chances are unexpected to the detours to your day because today is full of possibilities. Just stay right on your task!

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Type and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 |

**Concepts Sudoku** By Elmer Grace

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | | 2 | | | 3 | |
| 6 | | | | | 7 | | | 1 |
| | | 8 | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| | 6 | | | | 4 | | | |
| 3 | | | | 4 | | | | 6 |
| | | 2 | | | | | 5 | |
| | | 1 | | | 8 | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | 4 | | | | | 3 |
| | 5 | | | 3 | | | 8 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

# Fun projects to do the whole year

## Make 2012 your most memorable year yet with these activities

By Tobit Yang
Contributor

NEW Year's resolutions are so yesterday! Spice up your year by engaging in these daily projects, which are not only fun but will serve as your time capsule for the year ahead. Don't be afraid to commit to these daily tasks, as you can always double up on days you are unable to complete.

### The project: 366 days of self-portraits

Tools: Camera/phone camera

How-to: Take one photo of yourself every single day this year. You can add a social component to your project by uploading your photos to Twitter, Tumblr, Tumblr, or Flickr for creative souls day by taking unusual self-portraits in crazy venues or situations.

Self-portraits are also helpful if one of your resolutions this year is to lose weight—you'll be able to track your progress photographically. Stash your photos in a separate folder in your computer and create a cool year-end slideshow!

### The project: 366 snaps

Tools: Camera/phone camera

How-to: If self-portraits aren't your thing, mark each day with a memorable photo of outstanding (no-cars, etc, or related.

### The project: 366 days of journaling/blogging

Tools: Notebook, pen, or an account on Blogger or Wordpress

How-to: Write down highlights of each day on a dedicated journal or blog. Change your impression of writing in your tasks—they doesn't have to be a "Dear Diary" confessional or lengthy recap of your day. You can make it a challenge by limiting yourself to the character count of 1, tweet or SMS. Make your notebook entries creative by using colored pens and stickers. If you're more inclined to drawing, you can tweak this by making 366 days in sketches.

### The project: 366 outfits

Tools: Camera/ notebook and colored pencils

How-to: Catalog your outfits for the year by taking a snap a day or drawing your ensemble in your. You'll not only be able to see your style evolve with the trends, you'll also be able to make sure you don't wear the same outfit on parties or dates!

### The project: Twelve books a year

Tools: Books

How-to: Super writer Jason Dagdes started this project for himself last year, and we wanted to try it ourselves...read and finish at least one book a month. The avid bookworm may scoff at this, but actually finishing a book amidst the many distractions of real life can be tough.

Mix up your reading experience by alternating fiction and nonfiction reads each month, and encourage your friends to read along with you for reading discussions after.

### The project: 366 days of good deeds

Tools: Yourself!

How-to: Attempt to do one good deed a day. It doesn't have to be grand, just small gestures that'll make you and the recipient happy. E.g., being (genuinely) nice to a colleague you detest or creating the custodial staff at your office to lunch.

### The project: Project loose change

Tools: Loose change and a bottle

How-to: Put all your loose change (coins) in a bottle at the end of each day. Don't count until the year ends. You'll be surprised at how much you end up accumulating at!

### The project: 366 words

Tools: A dictionary or word-a-day calendar

How-to: Expand your vocabulary by committing to memory one word a day. Make it a point to use your word of the day in your conversations, no matter how banal!

## Not going . . .

From page D1

this and then you do the buying for them on that precise way how," says Emmanuel, who writes at tagaribas.wordpress.com. "While men can't jump; they also can't haggle."

He points out two places targeted as a demographic whose bearings of the world are guided by the bar scene of Salcedonod, Dasmo and Israel hassle. The Collective in Makati and Rome Art Center in Quezon City...places that every home-grown apparel brands like UNSOLD.

Emmanuel suggests The Collective too, not Ritual, a responsibly sourced shop of local products that sweats for the classic "Made in the Philippines." "Their ceramic bolt serves me from slice-breaking mangabeira and doesn't kill me with toxic chemicals."

I think we're getting into something here, to this I chose, the next person, Clara Balcazar...who runs the Office of Culture and Design (OCD) labs at The Collective—a chic alternative tenants sites all the top of her head. During my recent interview with journalist Xavier Mallona at OCD, Clara told me that she had taken him to a cemetery in a dumpsite (particularly the one near Kalalakan road by my boss Ona). Not long before that, she gave a visiting architect ideas by taking him to Philippine shanties. Her recommendations could make for a long of travel books, but for now this is what she recommends.

The first is a weary plane line called The Other Office in Makati. "See Chinese businessmen belt out classics in a dusky lisera atmosphere," she says, while I imagine blue neon lights, silhouettes and sober tourist apparel. Interesting.

From businessmen she moves onto "Dang Ho!" dumplings: "The waitresses spend all day rolling little dumplings in the restaurant window. It's Chinese food from the Muslim/Chinese region so it's conspiracy and very clean tasting."

"I wish to the old railroad station runs along Quirino Highway (right before the Bagiuhan Bridge! I will have [you] do some short trekking along the PNR railroad tracks to get there," Clara says of her third recommendation, which really is something" on the human trash."

"Every now! karaoke at Dampa sa Pandacan along Imeal Road for provincial wet market bars and ubiquitous karaoke."

But if tourists like and scrape our knees over our native flora, then her metropolitan counterpart sounds a little bit hard by travel instructor or hostels. Perhaps our hard-to-handle-even-by-Filipinos—but I can bear that it involves a mangrove island party and a boat ride with people you've just befriended.

Edwin Nombre, a supporting actor who now supports the alternative tour scene, has been running a donation-run tour group called Tao Manila since 2006—or, making his age, since childhood, with the philosophy of sharing Manila to strangers without getting anything in return. He takes tourists by projects in small urban poor communities where they're met by hundreds of kids. The donations don't go to him but to the communities and the families that accommodate them in immediate need.

While Tao Manila's efforts are valid and more than admirable, the journeys with which Edwin takes (the tourists) may not fully build the "real Manila" sinners. Nobel Indian once called Manila a "city of variegated interiors," with no acknowledgement of never-threatening mud and flyovers across. As they say, different strokes for different folks.

If I have asked someone sitting beside me at a cafe or the person behind the counter their answers would have been totally different. Before we hoop our ears and eats closed to the green bus going EGT campaign, I think it's time tell us to be more creative of what we don't have and therefore "have." I realized that even if we don't have the tourist magnets, we could fill travel books with our own valid up-offs. So having that heritage photo opportunity is okay. With my fear of shooting the cradles of the city lions, I showed my friend ten links of my trip...and surely a trip is worth more than just a thousand words.

*Emmanuel writes unadulterated negativities at tagaribas.wordpress.com. Clara runs The Office of Culture and Design www.officeofdesign.com. Tharmanda.com.*

# The day Wikipedia went away

By Tatin Tung
*Contributor*

WHILE researching Dwayne Johnson on Wikipedia last Wednesday, I saw the banner announcing the twenty-four hour blackout of the English Wikipedia page in protest the Stop Online Piracy Act), a bill being passed around in US Congress to help stop copyright infringements and piracy on the Internet. Other media giants like Google and Facebook are against the bill, claiming that the sentences related to this bill should it pass will result in shorter Internet, a violation of free speech and right to privacy and will ultimately change the essence of the openness of the Web.

"Blackout?" I thought to myself, "Huh. Surely they didn't mean taking down Wikipedia for twenty-four whole hours. Maybe they just meant changing the background to black or something."

And then the first hour arrived, and yes, the black background was there, but the rest of the pages were gone. They would still show up in Google searches as the number one result, but clicking on it would just bring you back to the sombre black protest page.

What. The. What?!? The blackout was for real, and I wasn't the only one feeling the immediate withdrawal symptoms—within a few minutes, Twitter was abuzz with tweets supporting Wikipedia's protest, while the rest were panicking over its hiatus.

Sure, because of the collaborative nature of each entry, Wikipedia isn't recognized as a reference source, but for some, it's the first source to go to for almost anything and anyone, it does the trick—not bad for a completely free service.

I didn't realize how much I had taken it for granted when I wanted to Wikipedia movie and book plots. Oh no, did Wikipedia seriously want me to sit through an entire movie and read a whole book to find out how it ends? How was I going to find out about other stuff without Wikipedia? How did Wikipedia become this ubiquitous in our lives without us realizing it? And more importantly, where will the 24 hours be ever so I can start reading about the Wikipedia blackout story on Wikipedia?

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# Year of the 'Dragon'

David Fincher's take on the best-selling novel 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' is disturbing, dark and mesmerizing

By Roel S. De Vera

DANIEL Craig as Mikael Blomkvist

WATCHING director David Fincher's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" for the first time is quite similar to getting your first piercing. You go well, ugly, then are shocked by the violence of the act, before the residual pain leaves you swallowed by a sense of lingering beauty—as well as an additional hole somewhere in your body.

For two and a half hours, Fincher explores some pretty disturbing places in the human psyche with his dark, sharp adaptation of the late Stieg Larsson's 2005 instantly best-selling thriller of the same title. If ever there was a property that was meant for Fincher, it's this one. The movie's weird, fetishistic-meets-S&M opening credits are as electronic-in version of Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song," are a pretty good indicator of the depths Fincher is willing to go to. This whole hole is lined with bodily fluids, and Alice is packing a heater.

After very publicly losing a libel suit, disgraced Stockholm journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) is wooed from his super by a mysterious phone call. Brought to the fictional town of Hedeby, Blomkvist is offered a job by reclusive tycoon Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer) : A lot of money and redemption in exchange for solving the 40-year-old disappearance of Henrik's beloved niece Harriet.

In order to do so, Blomkvist will have to take a very long look at Hedeby's own family. "Some [people] know us all only too well," Henrik says. "My apologies." Soon, Blomkvist realizes Harriet's possible murder is just the tip of a dangerous iceberg.

Blomkvist's path will eventually converge with that of Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara), an enigmatic, pierced, and tatted genius hacker with a genuine dislike for social contact. But she also possesses groovy super powers—the power of super research. There is basically nothing she cannot find. But Salander struggles to survive until some pretty awful circumstances ("She's different in every way" one character describes Salander) but finds direction with Blomkvist and the Vanger enigmatic. "Rape, torture, fire, mistrust, religion," Blomkvist says "Am I missing anything?"

While he was nominated for an Academy Award for 2010's "The Social Network," Fincher's body of work is populated by more offbeat fare, such as the true terror of "Se7en" and the hallucinogenic "Fight Club." "Dragon" is perfect for him, as he cooks up a maddening recipe of love and lust, questions and answers with the edge of his sadist mask but now with the disclosure of "The Social Network."

Steven Zaillian's script condenses Larsson's dense, dolorous novel into a more accessible, more straightforward whodunit. Some the hard bits of the book will notice more pretty major changes done to the original plot. The changes, sure to be controversial, admittedly work in the context of Fincher's right-on approach.

Set and shot in Sweden, "Dragon" is possessed by a bleak, stark beauty that makes the snowed-in-ness in the heart of Hedeby, Fincher's scenes are accompanied by a bone-breaking, digital score from "Social Network" collaborators Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.

Taking a break from playing James Bond, Craig brings a usually craggy magnetism to the role of jinxed Blomkvist, the renegade journalist built very much in the image of Larsson, the original book's author. While most of the attention will inevitably be drawn to Mara's Salander, Craig is actually the adhesive that holds "Dragon" together, converting Salander to the great performance by an impressive cast including Plummer, Stellan Skarsgard and Robin Wright.

MEGAWORLD
Lifestyle Malls
WELCOMES THE
YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Eastwood Mall
January 20 | 7:30PM
Lion & Dragon Dance
Wushu & Drum Exhibition
January 21
12 Lions Lion & Dragon Exhibition, 3PM
Fireworks Display, 7PM
January 22
Lion & Dragon Dance, 11AM
2012 Fortune Pyramid, 1PM
Chinese String Ensemble, 6PM
January 20 - 24 | 11AM
Unwind Epic
Eastwood Citywalk 2
January 21 - 24 | 5PM
Pacific Festival

Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill
January 21 | 7:30PM
Lion & Dragon Dance
Wushu & Drum Exhibition
January 22 | 7PM
Fireworks Display
January 23 | 11AM
Lion & Dragon Dance
January 27 - 29 | 5PM
Pacific Festival

Newport Mall at Resorts World Manila
January 22 | 3PM & 7PM
Chinese Cultural Exhibition
January 23 | 12NN
Sweets, Tooth Sisters & Gifts
January 24 | 11AM
Lion & Dragon Dance
January 30 | 11AM
Malaysian Lion & Dragon Dance with the Kung Seng Group

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Newport Mall
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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

# Where to Stop Where to Go

# Belgian choco Buddha and dragon for yummy luck

AS EVERYONE welcomes Water Dragon Year of the Dragon, Maestok Manila has wraps on how to enjoy the new season with thrill.

At 2012+, revellers will be delighted with the yummy and lucky Belgian chocolate molded two Buddha and dragon meant to bring luck, prosperity, and sweet life all year round. As the celebration is all so a great time to give someone a surprise treat, grab some whimsical gingerbread dragon (P150). Or, wow gingerbread house (P200), and frustrate that comes in heaven by numerous faces chocolate, mango, and strawberry (P265-P300) meant to banish negative vibes in the to-equinox.

Feeling extra lavish? Play up the chances of the lucky house year of the dragon by avoiding the prosperity moon package for only P8,888 net for friend at the deluxe room which comes with buffet breakfast for 2 plus F&B credits worth P1,000, an assurance that no one will ever go hungry during the stay. Since the New Year should be welcomed nothing but a cause of luxury and opulence, this would be a good time to gear up the whole family for some real pampering.

Witness the traditional lion and dragon dance at the hotel lobby on Jan. 26 starting at 3 p.m., followed by a colorful fireworks display by the famous Philippine Long Nian. Bring luck and prosperity while boasting exquisitely with this much awaited performance to signify an exciting year to come. For inquiries or reservations, call 980-9999.

## Delectable set course meals at Makati Shang

CELEBRATE with the family at Makati Shangri-La on Jan. 22, the eve of the Chinese New Year, for four delectable 9-course set dinner menus at Shang Palace labelled as Kung, Hei, Fat, and Choi menus, especially crafted to welcome the Lunar New Year and set to Cricket Event Café for a Chinese New Year's Eve dinner buffet spread, while authentic Japanese dishes with the zing of truffle at Inagiku, or enjoy a special five-course set menu dinner at Café On Chinese New Year's Day, guests can feast with lived cook at Shang Palace with the special Chinese New Year set menus, or enjoy a lavish meal at Circle Event Café with a buffet lunch. Guests may have a relaxing afternoon at the Lobby Lounge and the Biergarten with the Chinese New Year afternoon Tea, complete with the scrumptious delicacies from a 14-string orchestra. Long weekend room packages are also available from Jan. 20 to 23. Guests may also enjoy a spectacular dragon and lion dance at the lobby on the eve and day of Chinese New Year. Select angpao treats await children who come to dine at the hotel. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurant Reservations and Information Centre at 845-0856 Or e-mail mc.mmkl@shangri-la.com.

## Luxuriate in Astoria's suites

IN THE CHINESE calendar, it is believed that the mythical dragon shall bring forth a multitude of blessings this 2012 and what better way to "welcome" the Chinese New Year than to celebrate it in the comfort of Astoria Plaza's luxurious suites. Regardless as one of Manila's largest, the suites are designed to make its occupants enjoy their stay further because of the great appointments and pampering kind of service. From Jan. 21 to 28, enjoy the luxury of an overnight stay in a one-bedroom suite for only P4,800 net, or a 3-bedroom suite for only P8,800net. The package includes a buffet breakfast for two (four for the two-bedroom suite), a relaxing massage from Regency Spa and a special carry-all tote bag that you can use proudly because they were made by a community of abused women & children - a social/civic group supported by Astoria Plaza. For inquiries & reservations, call 687-1111 ext. 8002 or 8004.

## Happiness & prosperity for 2012 at Midas Hotel

THE YEAR of the Water Dragon must find you're good spirits. Treat your friends and family at the Midas Café and sample lip-smacking Chinese selections for the ultimate Oriental treat. Have extra fun discovering what the year of the Chinese zodiac has in store for you. What's in store for you this 2012? Stop guessing and have your fortune told. Indulge in a card and palm reading session, and know what the future brings from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Jan. 23. The Chinese lunch and dinner buffets priced at only P1,988net from Jan. 21 to 23. Free reservations required. Midas Hotel & Casino is proudly managed by Genesis Hotels & Resorts. For inquiries and reservations, please call 902-0930 To learn more about the hotel, visit midashotelandcasino.com and genesishotels.com

## *Grab the long weekend and go to Clark*

CELEBRATE the coming year of the Dragon with your family and friends at Holiday Inn Clark. As part of its celebration, there will be a Chinese New Year kiddie party. Kids can join in the fun and exciting games on Jan. 22 at garden cruise. It will be a fun-filled event with lots of activities such as Chinese lantern making contest, Matchstick carving contest and a lot more.

Take advantage of the special room package from Jan. 21 to 23: Stay for one night on Jan. 21 to 23 for only P3,900net, Fanyu rice forte or P5,700net and the two-bed room Villa at P9,200net per room. Perks in clude buffet breakfast for two persons and a 10percent discount on the Chinese New Year dinner at Mequinto on Jan. 21 and 22. Get your second night stay at 50percent discount of Best Flexible Rate on Jan. 21. Inclusions are 15% discount on buffet breakfast at Mequinto, 10% discount of Bee Fire Forte and standard room amenities.

Partake of the sumptuous Chinese buffet dinner available at Mequinto Restaurant on January 21 & 22. Buffet includes tradition al New Year celebratory fare like Roasted Peking Duck. Fish cakes and assorted dimsum. For dessert, sample the dragon fruit gulaman, ribey and other sweets for P1,800 nett per person only.

To welcome the auspicious year of the Dragon, there will be a dragon dance performance on Jan. 23 throughout the hotel.

Holiday Inn Clark is located at Mimosa Drive, Mimosa Leisure Estate, inside the fast developing business and leisure hub,Clark Freeport Zone. To make a reservation, please call 045- 3888 or (632) 509-8000 or visit www.holiday-inn.com.

# Microtel Libis: Green hotel with comfort

MICROTEL Libis, located across Eastwood City, was the first to qualify for a Green Building Permit granted by the Quezon City government. Quezon City leads the country in "green" infrastructure programs because it is the only local government entity to adopt tax and grant-type incentives to new and existing buildings.

The ordinance mandates the use of eco-friendly technology and systems in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the building. As of this writing, no other Metro Manila city or municipality has an owner-initiated ordinance closely modelled on and inspired by LEED and BERDE principles.

Microtel Libis, the 11th Microtel property in the country is scheduled to open this year. It has complied with and in some cases even exceeded the rigorous standards for a truly "green" building.

The hotel's sewage treatment plant coupled with a gray water system will conserve water. The choice of power efficient equipment and building setting were simple but inspired. Total power consumption for this building will be as much as 20% less than comparable structures. Materials for construction and the building site itself have been studied for minimal contribution to environmental pollution by recycling waste.

Microtel has always been on the cutting edge of "green" building. In Microtel Boracay and Microtel Puerto Princesa, sewage treatment plants, solar water heaters, and a plethora of environmentally sensitive equipment and strategies have been in use for many years.

In this way Microtel helps save the environment while still providing its guests with the comfort and service they have come to expect from the hotel.

Microtel is an international chain of hotels under Wyndham Hotel Group. Other Microtel hotels are located in Baguio, Batangas, Boracay, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Davao, Mall of Asia, Puerto Princesa and Tacloban, all Microtels in the Philippines are managed by Microtel Development Corp., the hospitality arm of the Filinvest Group. For reservations and inquiries, please call 899-7171 or (0917) 888.1488; e-mail reservations@microtelph.com or log on to www.microtelphilippines.com.

## Hot deal for only P2012 at Avenue Bicol

PLAN your vacations ahead and avail Avenue Plaza Hotel's limited offer. For as low as P2012 net, you can enjoy the luxurious and comfortable accommodation in a superior double or superior twin room and enjoy the free shuttle service from/ next to the airport or Central Bus Terminal's complex. To make your stay more special, you'll be welcomed with their signature drink. And this comes with extra treats like access to the Olympia Gym and Sauna, free use of the Century Infinity Pool and unlimited use of wi-fi internet even in the comfort of your room. All rooms at the Avenue Plaza Hotel are air-conditioned and well-equipped with comfortable amenities such as pocketspring bed, plasma cable TV, high-speed Internet connection, private toilet and bath, coffee/ tea maker, and mini-bar. From the Avenue Plaza hotel, getting around is very easy. Our concierge can help you get a taxi to tour you around the city or you may avail our tour packages with private guide. Pilgrimage rides, famous churches and major business establishments are just one ride away. Situated within the entertainment and lifestyle district, the Avenue Plaza is just a stone away from different restaurants and gimmick places.

## Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao welcomes new hotel manager

**All** WATERFRONT Insular Hotel Davao announces the appointment of Ronel Tiongson as the property's new hotel manager. Tiongson is a graduate of De La Salle University-Manila and took postgraduate studies in Hospitality Management at Cornell University, New York. His career spans a little over two decades, with notable positions in renowned five-star properties such as The Peninsula Manila, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa in the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal Island, Davao del Norte, Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa in the Boracay-Malay-Caticlan area, Pearl Manila Hotel, Manila Pavilion Hotel, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Manila, Fairmont Makati, Makati City Hotel. He also had noteworthy stints overseas, the most recent of which was with a resort and golf club in California, USA. Thereafter, he returned to the country and assumed the role of general manager handling two properties of sizeable guest-hotel rooms. His vision for the year 2012 is all of once ambitious and determined, "To solidify and reclaim the grandeur of Waterfront Insular Hotel as being the hotel of choice and the pioneering hotel in Davao City; an icon of rich and lasting heritage." With his extensive training and distinguished experience, nothing less than excellence is expected during his stay here in Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao.

DIAMOND

## Fresh catch every weekend at Market Cafe

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, get hooked on an endless array of the freshest catch of the sea as Market Cafe at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila adds fresh prawns, salmon, tuna, oysters and crabs to its bountiful dinner buffet. Select your favourite catch and enjoy it steaming hot off the grill, baked in a traditional wood-fired oven, out of the wok or with your choice of delicious sauce. Whichever you choose, our master chefs guarantee to cook your dish just the way you like it. Among the dishes offered are oven-baked Bocklodder oysters, steamed crab with chili or pepper sauce, fresh prawns deep-fried in a tomato-tempura batter, lechon de salmon or tuna tar-tar and garlic and fish cheese cooked off the grill. This seafood fare can be enjoyed during the weekend dinner buffet for only PHP 1,800 net. Rate is exclusive of free-flowing liquors and tea, soft drinks and local beer. Indulge with family and friends and make your weekends a special seafood occasion. For enquiries and reservations, call the hotel's Food and Beverage Reservations Centre at 247 9666 or 245 1234 ext. 1201. Alternatively, e-mail cafe.mnl@hyatt.com.

Luna Park Hotel
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Crown Regency Beach Suites Boracay
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Hotel Horizon
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Hotel Lucia
Hugo Hotel
Hugo Regency Hotel
Cypress Hotel
Hotel Veranda
Stardom Hotel
Villa Caceres Hotel
Hotel Plaza Hotel
Fuentes Place Sports Complex
Boracay Gold Crown Resort
Boracay Holiday Resort
Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel
Boracay Garden Resort
Boracay Regency Beach Resort
Coco Beach & Island Cottages
Crown Regency Resort Boracay
Crown Regency Beach Suites Boracay
Discovery Shores Boracay
Fairways and Bluewater
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# First quarter storm

**Six movies to look forward to in the next few months**

By Adrian H. Dy
Contributor

AS THE METRO Manila Film Festival wraps up to run to the wire, the foreign invasion returns to movie houses. It used to be that the first three months of the year were reserved for films making last summer runs or Oscars glory but the movie year has now swiss-cheesed big releases, taking advantage of a lack of competition to usher in the major economy.

Which means we'll have our mopping over to your local cinema and barking over your hard-earned cash! Superl reveals dates six must-see blockbusters, due to be released (fingers crossed) before April rolls around.

## #6 21 Jump Street

Hollywood has never been shy to resuscitate old extinguished ideas, so it shouldn't be a surprise that they eventually got around to bringing "21 Jump Street" to the big screen.

Based on the late '80's TV show, the big idea was that of a cast of police that looked young enough to be able to infiltrate high schools and colleges, posing as students to get undercover work done. But while the TV show played to the idea straight as a serious crime procedural, with public service messages after each episode to boot, the film version is settled by screwers Jonah Hill, which ought to give you a hint that this is going to be lighter in tone.

So it is alongside Channing Tatum, with the whole thing being directed by "Phil Lord and Chris Miller, whose previous work worth noting was the animated "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs." And just to amp up the quirkiness a bit more, Johnny Depp, who turned into stardom in the least role of the original series, will get an extended cameo in the film.

## #5 Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters

After teasing you with "Beastly" and "Red Riding Hood" on the big screen, pint-"Snow Queen's Ice" and "Grimm" on your TV sets, movie studios are set to flood you with darker versions of classic fairytales, what with two retellings of Snow White, plus an updated Jack and the Beanstalk tale with "I, Alien" director Bryan Singer at the helm.

Before all that, though, there's "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" to see first. Set 15 years after the whole gingerbread house incident, the brother and sister duo, played by Jeremy Renner and Jemima Arterton respectively, are now famous witch hunters, burning evil magic users at the stake. If you like bitch horror, you're going to love this, as the director and scriptwriter is Tommy Wirkola, who made the cult favorite Nazi zombie movie "Dead Snow."

## #4 The Woman In Black

Horror-gross-out, gore-filled horror, we get something a bit more spooky and emotional, as big name horror outfit Hammer Films is set to bring the British spine-chiller, "The Woman in Black," to the movie theater, after a lengthy, and still ongoing, run in London's West End.

While horror fans are going to devour what is expected to be an atmospheric creepfest, Harry Potter fans will be watching through the cracks of their fingers, as the lead role of Arthur Kipps, a young lawyer sent to what turns out to be a haunted house, is played by Daniel Radcliffe. Harry himself, in his first, post-Potter film role.

## #3 Haywire

Looking your regular dose of girl power? Female MMA fighter and former American Gladiator Gina Carano will be making the leap to the world of feature films in the movie "Haywire," directed by Steven Soderbergh, who most recently did the disease-thriller "Contagion."

Sure, the plot description isn't very original-sounding—Carano plays a mercenary who gets backstabbed on the job, putting her in a position where she has to elude the type while protecting her family—but the cast of the cast is as hard-hitting as Carano in her prime.

Soderbergh lined up Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor, Bill Paxton, Channing Tatum, Antonio Banderas, and Michael Douglas in supporting roles, promising as much star power as his equally big-name filled "Ocean's Eleven" trilogy. Seeing these guys interact with each other and the feisty Carano ought to be worth the price of the ticket, before we even get to the action scenes.

## #2 John Carter

Final first several legal-wrangling "Mission Impossible 4" despite a massive canoeing primarily on Pixar shoulders, and soon-to-be Disney scribe, the man who can "Finding Nemo" and "WALL-E," will look to do the same, bringing the Edgar Rice Burroughs pulp hero John Carter to the big screen.

Starring mostly from the first John Carter novel, "A Princess of Mars," viewers will be introduced to the titular Carter, played by Taylor Kitsch of "Friday Night Lights" fame, a Civil War veteran who suddenly appears on Mars, landing in the midst of several alien species. With the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series starting to slow down, "John Carter" might be the next big thing for live-action Disney pictures.

# Pinoy's Guiltiest Pleasure: Crispy Pata

SOOO PINOY

By Michelle Velete

If you could have your last meal on earth, what would it be?

Before you say filet mignon, smoked fish, ribs or tacos, think of the exquisite and definitely guilt laden dish that is Filipino beloved crispy pata. For its fans, the dish itself is made of pure heaven and one worthy to be included in every food bucket list.

But its unique attractiveness to the palate is not without drawbacks. Crispy pata or deep fried pork trotter or knuckle are pan-pan fried and cooked in such meticulous artistry that its pleasureful flavor mesmerizes effortlessly.

Crispy pata has also become an exciting culinary challenge. The best Pinoy restaurants can transform this dish to every imaginable level. But there are those who are a cut above the rest.

Through the admirable efforts of Unilever Food Solutions' Sooo Pinoy campaign, an advocacy that promotes the best of Filipino cuisine, some of the famous restaurants and food joints in the country are deservingly acknowledged for being the mastering the art of the eponymous Crispy Pata.

Serge Cafe Filipino boasts of its seasoned pork trotters as its heart is a crusty and delicate as any perfect crispy pata you can think of. Since its version of the dish is gently boiled before crispy and crunchy due to its elaborate sizzling, deep frying process. Serve stays true to the time-honored culinary mark by pioneering more satisfying traditions.

**Serge has branches in Metro Manila. You may call telephone nos. (632) 9112326, 9113669**

At an abandoned-inspired The Avenue located at the Small Villa Commercial Complex in Mandaluyong, Kubo is the restaurant that features its best Sate Kwang Crispy Pata: fried pork trotters in peanut sauce with onions and marinated native vegetables. The mouthwatering combination of Pata Pinoy flavors and the Bohemian backdrop will certainly make inspiring dining experience.

**Kubo is located in Cubao and you can reach them through tel. no. (632) 329-0833**

**Alejandro's is located at Don Jose Avila St., Capitol Site, Cebu City**

**Barrio Fiesta has branches in Metro Manila. You may call telephone nos. (632) 9112326, 9113669**

Almost omnipresent, Bistro Pesto is already part of Filipinos dining history. Many family gatherings have been spent there and these special moments are never the same without their original Bistro Pesto crispy pata, where the selected pig's knuckle is seasoned and deep-fried for crisp and golden brown goodness.

**Barrio Fiesta has branches in Metro Manila**

The Queen City of the South also has its long share of romantic crispy pata servings. As Don Jose Avila St. proud Alejandro's, which serves good food at reasonable prices. Its more say that their pata is crunchy on the outside and tender in the inside. Now become a favorite hangout place for yuppies in the house like friends on night from Thursday onwards.

Visit more parada who eat Cebu'an and even Cebuanos find time to check out this easy-going chill out spot. And those who have tried it always promise to return.

Pata has come not to forget these other restaurants that made it to the top ten restaurants for Crispy Pata: **Max's Restaurant, Chicharon Sa Cebu, Judy Ann Crispy Pata, Boracay's own Cliff Cebuano Bulungi ni Inday.**

With dishes like crispy pata, Filipino cuisine has been so proud of. Sooo Pinoy aims today to uphold and fight for that fact. Many people from all nations would need the world and back out to taste our delicious dishes that are specially embedded in our cultural history and identity as people. Our culinary gems should not discarded like a distant memory from the past, about in a fleeting time warp, because even in a highly globalized world, Filipino food needs distribution.

Mabigyanang pag-kain!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer runs "Sooo Pinoy" in helping spread those for Filipino cuisine. Vote for your favorite restaurants and share your photos and experiences at the "Sooo Pinoy" Facebook page. www.facebook.com/SoooPinoy. Follow us on twitter @SoooPinoy.

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INQUIRER

## #1 The Hunger Games

Many theorizing allied choose? Based on the best selling novel by Suzanne Collins, the movie adaptation of book one of the "The Hunger Games" trilogy (with the last book, "Mockingjay," mistakenly going to be split into two movies) is primed to become the biggest cinema event of early 2012.

In a world where The Games, the annual nine-district competition to the death among teenagers, are the thing. Katniss, played by rising star Jennifer Lawrence, is the latest contestant, and she has no intentions of losing, or in other words, dying.

With a large built-in audience, a quietly intriguing supporting cast (among others, Elizabeth Banks, Woody Harrelson, Donald Sutherland, and rock icon Lenny Kravitz as Katniss' gay fashion consultant), and acclaimed director Gary Ross, whose last project was the adaptation of "Seabiscuit"), "The Hunger Games" film is, without a doubt, the best movie that will demand your presence at the movie theater.

## Year of the 'Dragon'

From page B1

among others.

Mara's transformation into Salander is unbelievably it's almost scary. Last seen as Black Dahlia's object of affection in "The Social Network," Mara's ill-adjusted Salander is both believable and terrifying as a possible good girl to reform very bad things are done, leading to a strong very bad things are done. Additionally, Mara's Salander has both a head aggression and a wounded animal vulnerability in her that can only be penetrated by Blomkvist. It's a star making if also a career arch-turning turn for Mara, who will return for the series' two remaining installments.

Which brings us to the drop-in in the room: The violence and the nudity. If classified as a movie, the books in Lisbeth's trilogy can easily be rated R. Uh...and that distinction is matched by Fincher's movie. There are extremely graphic scenes of all kinds here—the movie will be shown uncut—so shoulder all hope, anyone under 18 who wants to watch this. It is extremely for older audiences, and even they may find some scenes disconcerting.

But the question is will the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" presents what feels like Gavid Fincher finally unleashed, a movie that not afraid to get all dirty and bloody in order to tell its mesmerizing and multi-layered story of life and death told in secrets and lies.

Columbia Pictures' "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" opens in selected Metro Manila theaters on Feb. 1.

Editor Nestor U. Torre ● Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

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NOW SHOWING

# Heart wins over schmaltz

By Rito P. Avila

"ALL IT takes is 20 seconds of brave courage to change your life," says Mort Ostrow's character, octogenarian Benjamin Hiller, to his children in his true-to-life stories. "We Bought A Zoo."

Director Cameron Crowe spins his yarn around a frothy combo of drama and situational comedy—or, his formulaic movie actually takes much longer than 20 seconds to win you over. When originally for the production's Greenlight pitching session finally kicks in, however, viewers show them on till the very end.

We've all lost dear friends and loved ones in cancer at one time or another—so, there's really nothing new about Benjamin's story. But, what sets it apart from other triumph-over-adversity tales is Crowe's insightful treatment of Mee's grief and healing.

Six months after his wife succumbs to cancer, the thick-pate self-writer sees adventure and serendipity buys a zoo—nine miles away from "dilapidated"—where he rediscovers his courage son, Dylan (Colin Ford), and 7-year-old

MORE P4

## Mad vs Gaga

By Nestor U. Torre

IT WAS bound to happen: Madonna is now "officially" mad at Lady Gaga. And, therein lies a cautionary tale that all "original" superstars need to learn a lesson from—to avoid being used by lesser stars who have benefited from having been "influenced" or "inspired" by them.

MADONNA. Surprising erudition

Let's face it, Madonna was the original self-reinventor—but, she too launched her show biz "brand" by getting inspired by or downright ripping off musical icon like Shelly's

To Madonna's credit, PAGE F4

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2. UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING in Digital 3D
3. SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

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6. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

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5. SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
6. A MATINEE'S STORY

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

# Jackie Rice: 'Appearances can be deceiving'

WCS. Her laughing warrior.

By Rita F. Avila

WITH HER glowing martini looks and piercing eyes, Jackie Rice looks tougher than she actually is. Our recent chat with the grand winner of "Battleworld Female Fitness" revealed a side of her the public knows little about.

Jackie shares, "Appearances can be deceiving. People think I'm mainstay—but, that's just the way I look. Any event, I get hurt easily. If you get to know me better, you'll realize how sensitive I am!"

### Talent search

The 21-year-old 99-Ath beauty says that, shortly after winning the top place of the pageant talent search, people began saying troubling things about her, like recalls. "I'd wake up one day and read in the paper how nasty I was. The rumors got so bad that even my parents started believing that I was a bad girl!"

Jackie wondered out loud, "Ang sakit naman...hindi n'yo ba alam? (laughs)" In these days, however, it was no laughing matter for her. "I turned my eyes out, then threatens to quit show biz. I developed a phobia for press now—what to take ate to meet the press, because you didn't know what time they'd beat at you."

How did she deal with it? She replies, "I learned that it was something I had to get used to. Then, The Bench (Francisco) gave me good advice: 'Don't read the papers!'—and, it worked! Now, dedma na ako sa kabat ng mga ga (laughs)."

### Disposition

With a sassier disposition and a thicker hide, Jackie says she's ready to face more challenges—to camera and off. With shows like "Bubble Gang," "Eat Bulaga" and "Sunday Pinasaya," she's learned to be more relaxed, and less impressionable—which helped her immensely when she topbilled the telemovie, "Hati."

These days, Jackie is no longer as shy as she used to be. After our chat, when she was asked to sing, the pretty actress readily agreed...and she genuinely worked the crowd!

## *Insufficient 'emotional capital'*

By Hector U. Torre

FORWARD. Playing for tears.

"A MOTHER'S Story" casts comedienne Pokwang in her first "serious" film role, as a long-suffering overseas contract worker who left her loved ones behind to ensure them a brighter future. Pokwang leaves observer of the acts, because she was on OGW for many years herself—but, that key advantage turns out to be insufficient "emotional capital" for her to come up with a truly creditable performance.

What seems to be the problem? For starters, the movie initially hedges its bets by making to lead actress on page in some comic antics—like a scene at the airport upon her return, where she's greeted by a marching band, given a huge bouquet of flowers, and acts like a kooky-conquering heroine.

So, when Pokwang eventually cries her heart out when her "fateful mother" character has to contend with her boyfriend and son's ingratitude, the shift is too sudden and "push become" to be truly affecting.

REVIEW/CONT. 14

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: CORIOLANUS
2: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
5: ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
6: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
7: A MOTHER'S STORY

GREENBELT 1
1: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

GREENBELT 2
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: CORIOLANUS
3: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
5: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
3: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
4: ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
5: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4

ASIA CENTER CEBU
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

MARQUEE
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
3: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
4: I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT

MARKET! MARKET!
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
3: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
5: CORIOLANUS
6: A MOTHER'S STORY
7: RESERVED

TRIANGA
1: CORIOLANUS
2: A MOTHER'S STORY
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
5: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
6: WE BOUGHT A ZOO
7: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

ABREEZA
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
3: SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
4: I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT

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# Concluding TV series veer away from their original course

PAZILLA AND DE BELEN. Gear up for their make-a-comeback face-off.

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS IS roaring out to be the month for concluding teleseryes. "Noypi" has just wrapped up its erratic storytelling, "How to Be Bad" is clearly revving up for its climax; it is denouement, and last we looked, "My Husband's Girl" was on its last lobocating week.

As the concluding shows walk pell-mell into their final rebounds, it's obvious that they're all determined to steal the thunder—and, well, limelight—from one another and the rest of the competition, by coming up with the most satisfying and surprising last-minute plot twists and turns!

Thus, last Friday on "My Husband's Girl," Kim Chiu ended the telecast with a big scream, because Jake Ejercito's character now knew—and Kim Chiu was also his! It was as shot showed Kim dressed in black and weeping her eyes out. Oh, dear . . .

### Serious condition

A subsequent telecast showed that Jake's character had expired, while Kim remained in serious condition. It is still unsure if we have the series would finally end. After all of those dire events, it's anybody's guess how the show's denouement will shape up....Imo, the resolution happy ending should still shine through, despite everything.

Meantime, on "How Ito Ing Ito," we've always suspected that Xyrus Mendiola's "unmovie" character was so angel—and Friday last week, it looked like we were right. Elsewhere in the show, Paolo Avelino's character had been framed on a drug rap to separate him from his girlfriend, the other daughter of top tycoon, Mark Gil—which prompted her to tell her dad, initially clad off and leave him. This, in turn, incensed Dad to send dad, Bembol Roco, so much that it looked like the battle-royal was being readied for a major Duel of Two Dads!

### Bad influence

Coincidently, on "Forever," it now looks like the big battle of confidative mothers we hinted at some weeks back is finally going to take place, with Jessie de Belen and Zsa Zsa Padilla's characters really down on each other due to what they subjectively perceive to be the other mom's bad influence on the teen-agers.

We're looking forward to the mano-a-mano face-off, should it transpire, because both Zsa Zsa and Jessie are gifted chewpiece who can make their combative scenes flash and flare.

Unfortunately, the show's other mom characters, played by Mylene Dizon, is scaling up as an also-ran, despite her pathetic efforts to "befriend" her own son, played by Enrique Gil. Similarly, Gilla is coming off badly in the series, because all he does is look sour and sullen and underdramatically constipated, because he's been edged out of the family picture by the much more endearing Bailey.

As these and other shows fold up their tents and wrap up their storytelling, we're struck by their general inability to execute these finale, from start to finish. We, for one, think "nice" people from their original course in terms of plot and character development, and too many confusing subplots and over-characters are added, just to keep viewers watching.

Sometimes, however, the result ain't necessarily bad stories, but bad themes—plus a measure of disappointment, when original cute themes are trimmed away or jerked in the endless effort to keep the concluding series "exciting!"

FANS' DAY

# No need for dancers to wear skimpy outfits

ROCES. Invokes comic.

By Andy Bais

LOU LAGUARDIA, admirer, shares: "Sara Amore has a voice so unique that it enables her to interpret songs in a way that leaves listeners speechless. Her performances come from the heart. Unfortunately, due to a botched medical procedure, she has lost her golden voice. She's now in America, hopefully to get it back."

Other notes:

Bryan Hontiveros, television-ite: "I'm wondering if it's OK with the BIR[CP that the dancers in 'Willing Willy' wear skimpy clothes. Measuring-tastemeal issue here. The dancers are good-looking—so, they don't really need those revealing outfits to attract viewers."

Rhonda Dupuy, bank analyst: "Watching ABC5's coverage of the Corona impeachment trial is enlightening. It has extensive persons as guests to help explain the highlights of the hearing."

### Making waves

Rona Lourdes Marcos Jimenez, news-entertainer: "Even on its second telecast, 'Wahing Hanggan' was making waves. I especially liked the intense subplots between Susan Roces and Helen Gamboa. Kudos also to the love team of Richard Gomez and Dawn Zulueta."

Don Tourtuera, dating enterplayer: "Much as I want to watch the Kris brothers' show on TVS, I can't...Jose, hahabahotin nila—they always seem to be angry. Mom even recommended Magandang Kalaban but ruined the fun. Alam morning macho kaya—you don't have to keep peering it."

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# Greta Garbo was charisma personified

## Mad vs Gaga

From page F1

however, she creatively adjusted them "to some extent" issues until they become practically her own. Thus, by the time she went into her career's later phases and faces, she had become pretty much a creation of her own making—or "museum-like."

Her ability to pull in subsidiary inputs from diverse sources, like her "cross," "ensemble" and "key" motifs, has literally taken her all over the pop-culture world, and enabled her to intentionally "confuse," only later to fuse, diffuse and refocus all sorts of influences, until the final "finished product" can only and exclusively be called "Madonna."

There's quite a fine line between entertainer who isn't all that lovely and doesn't sing all that well. But, she's been doing it with prodigious success for decades, so she must be doing something right.

### Self-reinvention

For her part, Lady Gaga is even less famous. She then Madonna, and her body and moves sometimes come off as gauche and embodyorous. But, she's learned a lot about self-reinvention from Madonna, and has in fact taken it to more bizarre and attention-calling extremes.

Since narcissism is a kind of obsequious and pre "non-friendly" flattery, Madonna hasn't spoken up about Gaga's habit of robbing from her stellar roles...and now.

Asked about the "similarities" between her production number, "Express Yourself" and Gaga's "Born This Way," Madonna parried her lips and sniffed when an interviewer asked her if they had indeed her call.

Instead of answering the probing question directly, she expressed her displeasure visually—even as she dropped a more revelatory verbal zinger: No, she wouldn't say that she found Gaga's song and performance (or her) derivative of her own professional persona, but—"she won't I would not to describe it would be—reductive."

Asked by the less than literally aware interviewer what the word meant, Madonna mused—"look it up."

Well, there are thousands of pop fans and fiends rushing to their dictionaries and thesauruses, only to discover, perhaps for the first time, that "reductive" means "simplified" and least of "crude."

Ouch.

### Media moment

What Madonna is ironic is "literary" in the manner like that. It showed, not just her surprising erudition, but her smallness and ability to do whatever was needed to seamlessly put her prime sure and intuition in her place.

But, now that the shock waves of that monumental put-down have receded, we hope that Madonna doesn't add further to the world, because she would find herself playing Gaga's game, and she would end up in the loser.

Why not become, as the original superstar, she has the high ground, and for her's to demand from it would be to Gaga's game, since it would be Madonna's admission that Gaga has become big enough in her own right to pose a threat to the original "grande queenie" superwoman.

Ms. Louise is an "endeavor." That was clear in that put-down of the year. Truly inspired, Imo, more than enough!

By Bebs Cervantes

GARBO. Hair for drama.

ONE AFTERNOON, my niece, Inni, and I decided to watch a film starring Greta Garbo, GRETA GARBO, who was married by now like Cary Cooper and Gregory Peck (It is said that she had affairs with both leaks).

Garbo was discovered in Sweden, Lutz, she became the resident superstar of Hollywood. When "talkies" came, many careers ruined because of their bad speaking voices. But, neither her accent nor her voice affected Garbo's stellar reign. In one of her films, you could hear her talkin' — and Imo, amazed the world continued to listen to her in movies like "Grand Hotel," "Camille" and "Ninotchka."

### Costumes

We thoroughly enjoyed "Mata Hari," which showcased the actress' dramatic flair. The costumes in the black-and-white film were fabulous. Garbo's long, lean body lent a model's stature to her splendidly beaded costumes, and her face was finely made-up, accentuating her high cheekbones and expressive, deep-set eyes.

In "Grand Hotel," the ensemble film that screens with John Barrymore and Joan Crawford. By this time, Garbo had already perfected the use of makeup to cleverly sculpt her classic features; her gross cinematic effect—a look imitated by women around the world!

### Ethereal beauty

In contrast, Ingrid Bergman was pewless. With or without makeup, the star of "Intermezzo" and "Notorious" was beautiful. She was always ethereal in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Gaslight" and "Saratoga Trunk"! She was gloriously beautiful in those films.

While Bergman conveyed muted sensitivities, Garbo displayed histrion sex appeal. After watching "Mata Hari," we watched "Queen Christina," "Camille" and "Conquest"—which made me realize the extent of Garbo's charisma: You enjoy her screen performances so much that you want to see more of her!

# 'Feng shui' lecture at LRI

ON JAN. 22, the LRI Design Place is sponsoring a lecture on *feng shui*, "A Day in the Year of the Water Dragon by Marissa Allen," at 1:30 p.m. at the LRI Showroom, 2316 Nicanor Garcia st., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call 895-3470.

Allen trained in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and China and is proclaimed of the World of Feng Shui Philippines, one of the outstanding arts of her geomancy practice.

ALLEN. Predictions for 2012.

## STREET SMART

*Mandy Antonovich*

In her talk, Allen will share her predictions for 2012, the year of the Water Dragon. What's even more interesting about her lecture is how she applies feng shui to furniture and interior design.

Feng Shui For Chair

* * *

Join the Amazing Racers: Photo hunt from February to May, and one stop to Cavite and Corregidor. Visit mandyantonovich.blogspot.com, or call 896-1200.

# Insufficient . . .

From page F1

Another distraction is provided by the fact that the film quite often goes into emotional overkill. Imo's already been effectively moved by the premise about OCWs and their fractured families. To make those scenes, relationships and encounters fresh and vital again, "A Month's Story" should have provided us new, newly insightful take on them, instead of just more of the same. Instead of just

# Bad year for villains

By Nestor U. Torre

POSTS PULLED off with just the right combination of sinister scrutiny and soul-searching will, sooner, villainy can be the most awesome viewing experience on TV or in the movies.

Take Anthony Hopkins' brilliant portrayal of Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs." In the hands of many other established "evildoers," the character would have been predictably terrifying.

But, Hopkins went beyond those standard parameters by showing Lecter's unsettling mix of total genius on the one hand, and consummate, detached and absolute evil on the other.

**Contrast**

Amazing light and the pitch black darkness of the demonized soul...that's the quirky contrast he effected that had viewers whispering and shrinking in their theater seats, because they couldn't predict what new and even more extreme

SEE F6

PICADIE: In your face villainy.


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NOW SHOWING
SHERLOCK HOLMES
A GAME OF SHADOWS

# He was playing a tree until Spielberg cast him

LOS ANGELES—He was playing a tree when Steven Spielberg gave him the role that would dramatically change his life and career. Yes, Jeremy Irvine was wearing two branches as a tree, albeit with the Royal Shakespeare Company, when his handler the head part in "War Horse," Spielberg's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's young adult novel published in 1982.

The adapted into an acclaimed play, "War Horse" centers around the titular character, a farm horse named Joey who is sold to the British Army at the outbreak of World War I, and Albert, the boy whose hand with the novel ondown even through the war that separates them.

Jeremy, 21, never expected to get the role. "I wasn't even getting the Gods at my auditions. To go from that to such a wonderful role as Albert in 'War Horse' is extraordinary. I sometimes feel guilty being offered this role because I think, do I really deserve it?"

The favorable reviews must have relieved Jeremy by this time. He has gone on to other big roles—he will be seen next in "How To Good," with Dakota Fanning, "Green Experiences" with Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter, and "The Railway Man" with Rachel Weisz and Colin Firth. Excerpts of our interview:

**How did you become interested in acting?**

At 14 or 15, I had a great drama teacher who said going to one of the top London drama schools was a tough, gruelling task. That appealed to me. I went and worked backstage at some London theaters.

**So, you went to drama school?**

I only did a year there. I wanted to be an actor, but I didn't want to train. I was lucky enough to get an agent but for about a year and a half. I didn't get any work at all. At that, when I got the job in "War Horse," I was playing a tree in the Royal Shakespeare Company. I'd come onstage with two branches and I'd wave them. It was deep emotional acting but maybe in a wooden kind (laughing). I had no lines. I did think at the time that this is as good as it gets. I was on stage with some of the best British theater actors.

**Can you talk about that moment when you heard for the first time that you got the role?**

I had been auditioning for about two months. One day, I got a phone call from my agent saying, "Steven Spielberg wants to hear your accent. Can you read this script and we say Action." Fine.

They say 'Action,' and I turn the script. I start reading and I go, 'Hey, hey Steven Spielberg wants me to play Albert in the feature film, War Horse!'" You get the whole thing on the phone. The whole thing hasn't sunk in yet. It's not going to sink in for a while. All this seems very surreal.

**What was it like being directed by Spielberg?**

I got a phone call saying could I go to Spielberg's office in London for tea in Claridges Hotel to 'Lets' door at nine o'clock the next morning. Naturally, like any actor, I was absolutely terrified! I went into the room—and, within five minutes, it was completely relaxed.

This celebrity is not just a name to one of Steven's greatest assets. When you're comfortable, you do your best work. You turn up on the floor film sets and they're brags. But, the way Steven works is incredibly intimate. You come to the set, you present what you've brought to the table—your homework—what you think you should do. He'll watch that, tweak it, mould it and maybe tell you to do something completely different. From that, you get a performance.

**Can you give a specific example of a scene that you felt like you were having trouble?**

The scene where the horse is sold to Captain Nicholls. We didn't rehearse. It was done in the first take. Steven calls that taking the virginity of scene. That's how you get the freshest performance. So, I turn up and the scene is Tom Hiddleston saying Joey from Peter Mul-

BYDNE. Extraordinary break.

lan. I'm running at first so I can in the village to try and stop that. I'm out of breath and I'm in character. I get there that it all comes out at once. It's like huge emotional sweat, I guess (laughing). Steven came up to me and said, "Okay, now all that emotion, do every- thing you can to hide it. Don't let that show on your face."

As soon as I did that, the scene suddenly made sense. Yes, my character is incredibly upset. But, you can't talk to people when you're emotionally choked up. You're so kind of scared it be- cause it's also really important to be able to talk.

**What did you have to go through to get that bonding with Joey?**

The relationship between my character and the horse isn't necessarily one that you look for a horse to be on screen and are with you, you must have that relationship. A horse is a big and powerful animal. It could kill you if it wanted to. Yet in lots you get on its back and it rides. You've got to have that relationship or it's not going to do what you want it to do.

**How many Joeys were used?**

There were 11. I'd never been on a horse, before we started filming. I went for two months training, learning to ride. I was never an animal person, so I was a bit skeptical. Like, I'm not going to fall for these horses. Within a week, I was a rocker like everyone else. You have to be (laughing).

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KOHTAKH. Signals new HBO series.

## Bad year for villains

From page F1

screen bathed around the next cinematic corner.

By that yardstick for on-screen evil, 2011 was a bad year for TV movie villains, especially of the homegrown variety. Instead of inducing viewers to terrorized bloats, the movie scene star-ups in this year's alleged villains that viewers were enlisted...as giggles.

Part of the problem may have been the fact that some homelanders were so re-tooled, hopping from one dastardly character to the next, that they hadn't been given much up-on- palpingly diverse portrayals.

For instance, in "Blondie Girl," Glenny Pie Hoarke was assigned to play the sexist resident Chinese billionaire's cyber wife, who is as sweet- ism. I'm running as fast as I can in this village to try and stop that. I'm out of breath and I'm in character. I get there that it all comes out at once. It's like huge emotional sweat, I guess (laughing). Steven came up to me and said, "Okay, now all that emotion, do every- thing you can to hide it. Don't let that show on your face."

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## Adjoining passengers, a blessing disguise and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

*A.HA* sensibly quotes, "The Philippines is more fun with Heath Ledger Bonkers: no phone coins out with another spe- cial compilation to ring [8181] with a big bang!" Again, happy to oblige!

Host: When will your unique tool finally fall off?

Guest: Very soon—we're just waiting for more ad- ditional encouragement.

(—Ah, maybe you can try inviting the people over there?)

* * *

Host: What will your new beautiful- ing retribution do for your cus- tomers, especially the mature ones?

Guests: Guaranteed, it will get rid of all naughty marks on the face and body!

(Naughty marks—you mean, pimples and marks that mean something?)

* * *

Host: Share with our viewers some tips to conserve wa- ter—What do you suggest?

Guest: Uh, like you can turn off the shower when brushing your teeth.

(That's great—if you brush your teeth while in the shower!)

* * *

Host: Tell us about the status you have modified sex- reversion practices to bring down the cost.

Guest: For one, we advo- cate the creative use of indi- gent materials!

(Poor you!)

* * *

Host: What fun activities can we do while visiting your beautiful premises?

Guest: Uh, as many—like, you can go hopping to Isnah

(Til like that—if I were a frog!)

* * *

Host: We are over our crisis is so pollution. What can we do to make sure we don't suffer from the efforts of smog?

Guest: Against smog, you can inhale oxygen!

(Will you inhale with me? Yours!)

* * *

Host: Why did you join this contest?

Guest: Well, as they say, if you have a talent, why not to compete? So, may talent re- main she, so why not to com- pete!

(Huh?, as ... )

* * *

Host: Idol me bi-a' The Ne- ET

Guest: Ops.

Host: Kilala me ka si The Nok?

Guest: Hindi po.

(No figure?)

* * *

Host: What's you fat., did you lose heart?

Guest: Of course, I'm fat- mass, but, after that, I got some even better offers, so I think it's a blessing dis- guise!

(—Well, bless you!)

## Choral arranging workshop with Mr. C

ZELAYA. 32 and 20 of his choir school, maestro Ryan Cayabyab will teach a special workshop in choral arranging. Ex- perienced choral hasn knowledge of basic mu- sic theory, know how to play the piano or guitar, and choral have worked as singer or conductor/leader with choirs or singing groups. Visit Mr. C's re- sume section for Summer Get to's lower level. Critiques are, too. Ethic.

MONTAGE

**'Luck'**

HBO's most eagerly awaited Original Series for 2011.

"Luck," premieres on Feb. 28 at 9 p.m. on HBO (8 p.m. on HBO HD). The drama series about horse racing stars Dustin Hoffman.

**Celebrity Poker Tournament**

In cooperation with the Nikolas Teach Poker Sports Club, Monteffoort is

## Heart wins over schmaltz

From page F1

daughter, Susie (the seven-starring Maggie Elizabeth Jones).

**But it doesn't take long for** Sequeira to realize that it's easier to embark on one of his dangerous trips than pick up the pieces of his and his kids' tattered lives, especially where his emotionally distant son is concerned.

As he struggles to cope with his mother's incapacity, he's surprised to discover a new and unexpected connection with a woman (Jessica Lucas) and her 13-year-old niece, Lily (Ella Rumpf). And, it doesn't help that his brother (Jason Isaacs) is a supportive and sympathetic stepsister, Walter Ferris (John Michael Higgins), is constantly threatening to close down his wildlife facility!

Grosso has an intriguing lens hard to sell premise. Initially, it's difficult to suspend disbelief that a man who is mourning would purchase a zoo just to boost his family's ongoing spirits...but, as they say, truth is stranger than fiction. Nevertheless, the movie has "special" elements that allow the production to break out of its formulaic mold.

The director embraces his mate- rial's shaky foundation and builds on it with insight after moving insight, each intelligently conveyed by actor who work in utopic harmony...and synergy.

The film has a cozy ensemble of fa- mous and lesser-known faces, but Grosso knows only too well that a story as deep-rooted and ripe as this can't exist on charm alone.

Being the star is the outstanding Elias Koteas, whose character mostly in quiet grace—until he's forced to deal with his bottled-up emotions and explodes in a stunning confrontation scene with his son.


Legacy Theatre — Victoria, Mall, Bonanza, Tower, Genesis Cinema, Bubba's, Mall, Cinema, Cinema

Genesis CINEMA 3D — Mall Complex 4

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